The Outlook

Volume 139 March 11, 1925 Number 10

The Next Speaker

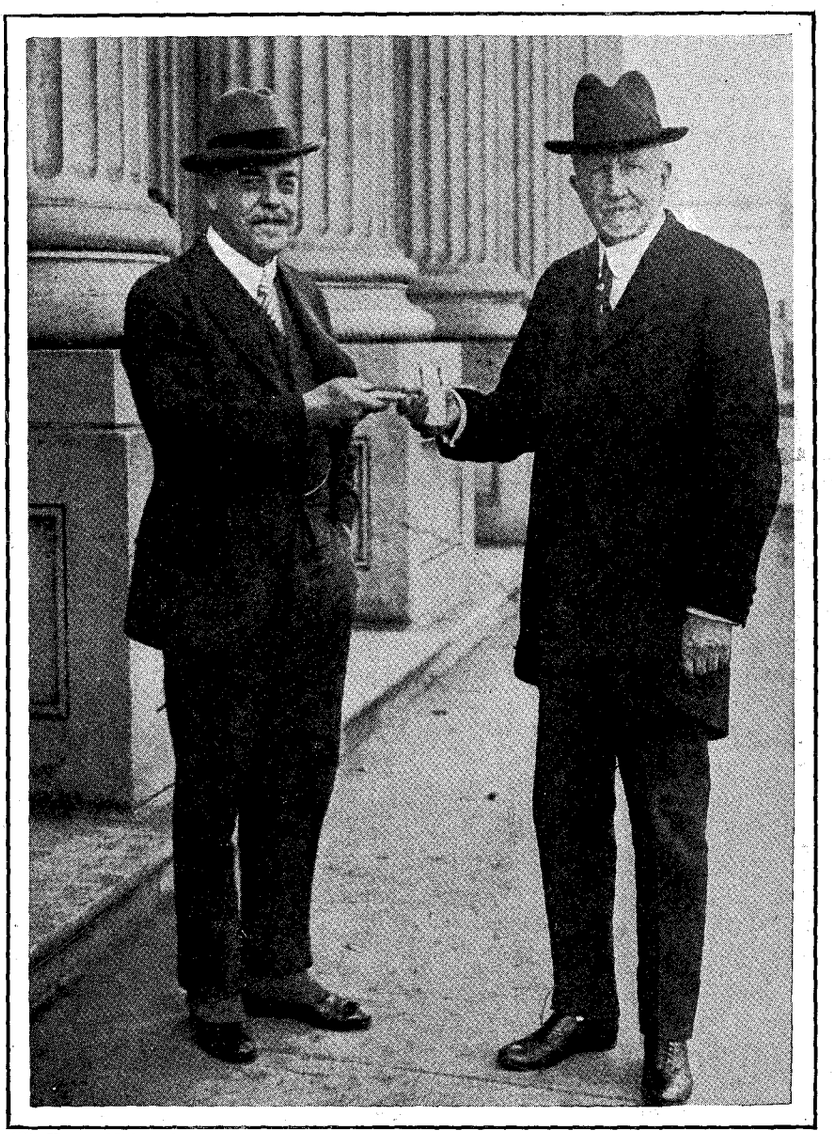
THE Speakership of the National House of Representatives is not now the powerful position that it once was. While the honor, theoretically, is as great as ever, the opportunity for a Speaker to become a dominating figure has dwindled greatly these latter years. There will never be another Reed or another Cannon, another Carlisle or Crisp. The power of that office reached its crest when Joseph G. Cannon held it. He wielded its full power—and destroyed it. The revolt against "Cannonism" clipped the claws of the Speaker while Cannon still held the gavel. Successive revisions of rules have dislodged power from the platform and returned it to the floor.

When Nicholas Longworth, of Ohio, becomes Speaker of the House when the Sixty-ninth Congress meets, the opportunity may be his to create a new kind of greatness for that exalted office. The old order has gone, but no new order has definitely come. Clark and Gillett have held the gavel during the transition period. They were good Speakers; neither of them created—or tried to create—a new importance for the office.

There cannot be—and of course should not be—another czar. There might—and should—be a succession of guiding and inspiring Speakers. If Mr. Longworth can so preside as to induce Congress to want to transact its business promptly and efficiently, he will be greater than all the czars. A genius in the chair could keep the House so interested in its work that it would forget to talk for talking's sake.

Conditions are favorable for Mr. Longworth to do this. He has in very large measure the confidence and the regard of the Republican majority. In party caucus he received 140 votes to 85 cast for his opponent, Representative Martin B. Madden, of Illinois. He has enough experience in Congress—ten terms. He has shown himself an able parliamentarian as majority leader.

To that latter position, by Republican caucus nomination, Representative John Q. Tilson, of Connecticut, succeeds. On the Democratic side Representative Finis Garrett, of Tennessee, will continue as minority leader. Here are two other able parliamentarians. If Longworth and Tilson and Garrett could work together toward making of the House of Representatives a genuinely efficient legislative machine, they would write their names far up on the list of their country's servants.



(C) Henry Miller News Picture Service, Inc.

Frederick H. Gillett, retiring Speaker of the House (right) turning over his gavel to Nicholas Longworth, the newly elected Speaker

Keep Politics out of Rates

IN the last session of Congress the Senate made an attempt to abrogate a general policy at the behest of a particular interest. We refer to the bill which would have abolished the surcharge on Pullman accommodations which the railroads are now collecting in accordance with a decision of the Inter-State Commerce Commission.

This charge was established by the Inter-State Commerce Commission in 1920 as a part of a general rate schedule revision. For Congress to attempt to revise particular items in this schedule is wrong in principle and dangerous in fact. If this attempt were successful, it would take from the Inter-State Commerce Commission the power to organize rate schedules upon a scientific basis. What use would it be for the Inter-State Commerce Commission to establish rates based upon a study of conditions as a

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whole if the rates were to be liable to attack and change by specific political interests?

The Senate passed this bill; the House sat upon it severely. The bill will probably bob up again in the new session of Congress, for there are powerful interests behind it. If the Senate shows no signs of reform, we trust that the House will again stand watch against this violation of fundamental principles and well-established policy.

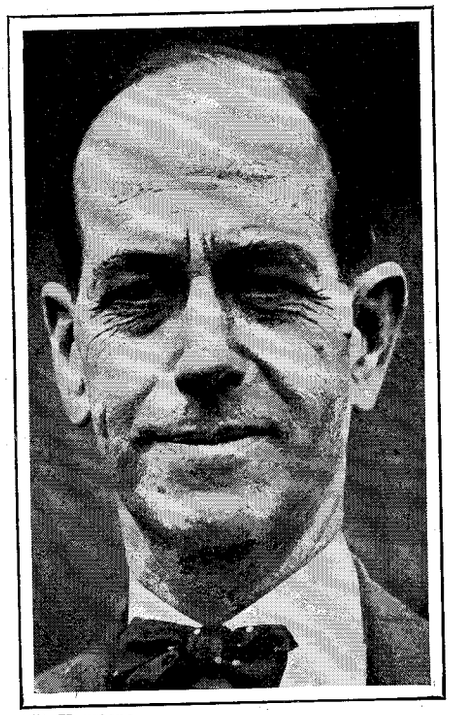
Senator McCormick

MEDILL McCORMICK, United States Senator from Illinois, whose death occurred suddenly in Washington the other day, was peculiarly a Chicagoan. The whole of Chicago's life is a part of the recent history of his family. Both of his grandfathers were prominent among its founders; they were of it and it of them. But those who founded the metropolis of the West builded not merely a city, but the center of an empire—an empire of agriculture hardly more than of culture for the people of a new land; a center in which the West came to itself and from which it reached out, asking and giving help, to the older portions of the country and to the still newer portions, then untamed. If Medill McCormick's grandfather McCormick sent his harvesting machines into every field of that empire, his grandfather Medill sent his newspaper into a great part of its homes. And so Medill McCormick was born to be peculiarly a citizen of a city which sustains a peculiar relationship to the country.

That fact throws, in some sort, a light upon the career of Medill McCormick. For a man cut off before the age of fifty, he had a large career and a useful one, but the portions of it which he most cherished were the portions that another man might have regarded lightly, and the portions which he held of small account another man would have cherished.

When he stopped to look back upon his achievements, Medill McCormick saw as one of the two largest items among them a picture of steamboats running from Chicago to New Orleans, the culmination of the Lakes-to-the-Gulf deep-waterways project, his advocacy of which was both zealous and efficacious. The other which bulked as large as this in his own estimation was his leadership in budget legislation, first for the State of Illinois, and then for the United States. In these two things McCormick saw his largest usefulness to his fellow-men. Others may think that he was equally useful in the part he took in war legislation, in his stand against the Treaty of Peace as it came to Washington from Paris, in other of his legislative activities—for, though he was only six years in the United States Senate, his name was connected with a considerable list of legislative achievements.

Before entering politics McCormick was a newspaper man. He began work



(C) Keystone

Medill McCormick

as a reporter on the Chicago "Tribune"—the newspaper founded by Joseph Medill, his grandfather—and became its publisher and managing editor. He did not seek a political career. He entered politics as a supporter of Theodore Roosevelt in the Presidential campaign of 1912. He began the campaign as Vice-Chairman of the Progressive Party's National Committee. At the end of it he was, without intending to be, elected to the Illinois Legislature as a Progressive. He served two terms in that body, was Representative in Congress for one term, then was elected to the United States Senate. Had he lived, he would have retired from that body on March 4. Former Governor Deneen succeeds him.

Let's Not Forget Principles

"SIMS for Air Navy and no Battleships." Thus ran a recent headline in the New York "Herald Tribune." The next day the New York "World" outlined the testimony of Rear-Admiral Fullam with a headline which read:

REAR ADMIRAL TELLS THE HOUSE INVESTIGATORS THAT BATTLESHIPS ARE HEADED FOR SCRAP HEAP

Casual readers of such headlines and of many newspaper reports of the testimony which has been given in the controversy between advocates of airplanes and battleships are all too likely to jump to hasty and false conclusions. The testimony of both Admiral Sims and Rear-Admiral Fullam does not imply any change in the ancient axiom that only capital ships can control the sea.

Both Admiral Sims and Admiral Fullam indicated that the capital ship of the future might vary markedly from the battleship of to-day. It might indeed become a vessel relying almost wholly upon airplanes for offense and defense. Types of battleships grow obsolete, but the capital ship in some form still remains the only force which can hold a position upon the waters.

There is one thing which some of the present controversialists seem to ignore, and that is the fact that the chief nations of the earth have bound themselves to mutual restriction in the building of airplane carriers. It looks as if the present battleship would have to be depended on by the navies as long as this restriction endures.

For a Clean Stage

THE stage is a most valuable ally of civilization. It can also become a very real danger. At its best it affords opportunity for the keenest of social criticism and a chance to bring that criticism home to every citizen in the directest possible way. At its best it is a living presentment of humanity; its griefs, its joys, its failures, and its triumphs.

Power for good is also power for evil. In the hands of vicious men the stage can undermine character, corrupt youth, and degrade the name of art.

The stage has a great responsibility to the public, and we believe that the leaders of the dramatic profession realize that responsibility more fully at the present time than ever before. We do not believe that they will be helped in shouldering that responsibility by the establishment of a brass-button censorship or by the unintelligent restrictions of men and women ignorant of psychology and afraid of the truth.

Certainly, before any legal censorship

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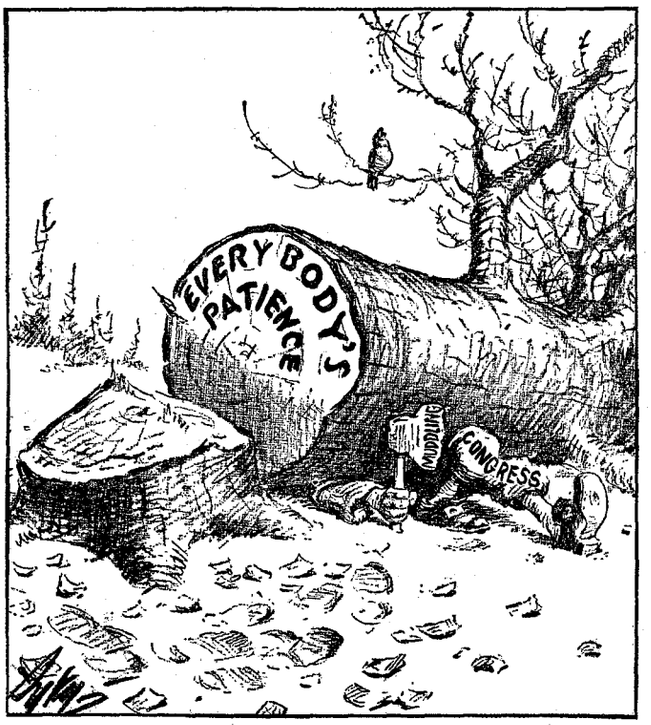
The law's delay, the insolence of office

(Hamlet, Act III, Scene 1)

Sykes in the West Virginian



Another Washington (D. C.) story

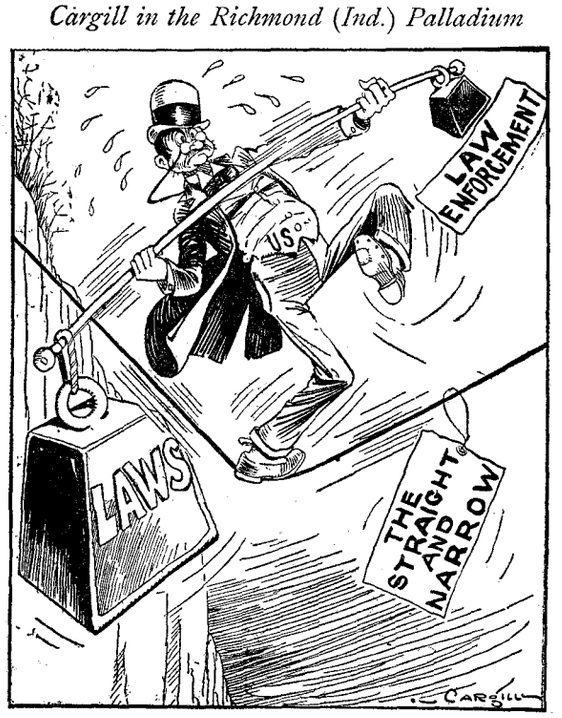
From Leo B. Collabrase, Monongah, W. Va.

Pease in the Newark Evening News

Mostly naught

From Mrs. Raymond S. Williams, Glen Ridge, N. J.

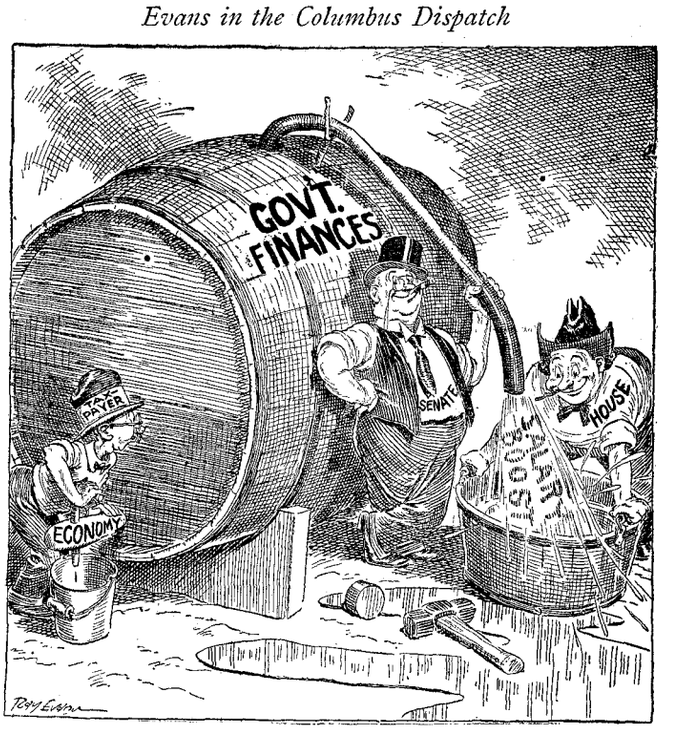
Cargill in the Richmond (Ind.) Palladium



What's wrong here?

From Harold Brown, Lynn, Ind.

Evans in the Columbus Dispatch



There's always a catch somewhere

From Miss Georgiana Ferguson, Columbus, Ohio

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is established the plan outlined by Francis Wilson, an actor who has been an honor to his profession and a valiant champion of its rights, should have the fullest and fairest trial. Actors and dramatists are ready and glad to cooperate with intelligent public opinion. What Mr. Wilson says in this issue of The Outlook should be given a most attentive hearing.

A Colossal Art Project in Danger

THE quarrel between Gutzon Borglum, the sculptor, and the Stone Mountain Confederate Monumental Association is to be deprecated by lovers of art and patriotism, North and South. The idealism that prompted and inspired the unique conception of a gigantic memorial to General Robert E. Lee and his officers and men, carved out of the almost sheer surface of the face of Stone Mountain, has aroused wonder and admiration the country over. The physical difficulties are so great and the cost so uncertain that the enterprise requires and should receive National interest and support.

What has now appeared is dissension, mutual charges of bad faith and inefficiency, technical disputes as to authority, legal action that may cumber the courts and delay the work for years. Even the Ku Klux specter is seen in the background.

It is to be hoped that the Southern societies and committees interested in this vast undertaking will find some united course of action, so that they may appeal with confidence for support in every direction and secure financial support (the amount in hand is obviously inadequate) and the best attainable skill in art and mechanical instruction.

Disputes and Proposals

IT is not yet time to sit in judgment on the points in dispute between sculptor and Committee. Mr. Borglum is a man of tempestuous temperament and reputed to be hasty if crossed. The basic idea of the memorial is said to have originated with a Southern woman. But the development of its possibilities, the design adopted, the ingenious methods of actual work, are, his friends claim, Borglum's own. One of these friends is quoted as saying:

> The memorial has been given a large significance through the interest the North has taken in it. Borglum in giving his great art to the memorial has humanized the figures of Lee, Davis, and Jackson, etc., and made them living figures.
>
> He has resurrected them, and the North in recognizing the memorial in the person of these living figures has accorded the South recognition in a way that never could have been with a less great conception. Borglum not alone gave his highest conception to this work, but he solved the engineering problem, a problem considered insoluble, and made possible the practical realization of this work.

The proposal has been made that a council of sculptors should advise on the personal and art side of this controversy, and a council of business men on the legal and financial points involved. Such advice from men of high repute not involved in this matter might well restore peace and prevent the colossal failure of a noble undertaking.

Finish the Memorial

IT is generally agreed that in destroying models of the design Mr. Borglum committed a wrong against the memorial. No legal claim to title in models or drawings (if such title he had, which is disputed) should justify the hindrance and injury to the completion of the work. Whether Mr. Borglum or others prosecute the design to a finish, what has already been done should be available. The models should have been retained subject to legal rights; to destroy them physically was vandalism.

Mr. Borglum is reported to have asked a group of Northern capitalists to raise a fund of $500,000 to complete the memorial. There ought to be no sectional treatment of the problem. Americans of the North admire General Lee, and, while they do not believe that secession was justified, they do believe that the South rightly honors the men who fought with patriotism, endurance, and sacrifice for what they held to be their honor and their duty. They may well help in this great art memorial, for it will be a National acquisition, but let there be no appearance of trying to take it out of the hands of the South.

The Kaiser's Successor

IN the death of President Ebert Germany has a chance to show the world her real intentions.

When Friedrich Ebert was thrust into power by the force of events for which he himself was partly responsible, he was scorned by those most typical of the old ruling classes in the Reich. Society in Germany had so long been organized according to a sort of systematic snobbery that it was positively painful for those accustomed to the Kaiser's Court to see in the Kaiser's place a former saddler's apprentice who wore lace boots on occasions when it had been customary to wear low shoes. It was this, as much as Ebert's political ideas, that made him the object of the animosity of the reactionaries.

Ebert himself at first did not seem clearly to understand Germany's position in the world as a consequence of what she had done before and during the war; for Ebert's statements were not always free from the unpleasant combination of bluster and whine. Nevertheless he was far in advance of the reactionaries, and even of men in his own Social-Democratic Party. Ebert was a straight Socialist. With one hand he killed the Bolshevist movement, with the other he put down the reactionary Kapp revolt. He welcomed as Chancellors such men as Wirth and Marx; and he accepted such men as Cuno, Stresemann, and Luther only to prevent Governments still more reactionary than theirs. Ebert was no orator nor even an outstanding personality; but he was a safe party leader, and under the Constitution he made an honest, capable, moderate, and brave President.

Now that he has died after an operation just as his term of office was about to end, there is some ground for both fear and hope concerning what may happen. The reactionaries in Germany are manifestly preparing for a return of the monarchy. The Republican revolutionary leaders are becoming unpopular and have been eliminated from the Government. The death of Ebert takes the last of them. If Germany now turns to men of the type that blustered and swaggered her into war, the fears of France and some of Germany's other neighbors will be thoroughly justified. Reports of Germany's efforts to arm and train great bodies of men for war seem to be more than mere rumors. What hope there is for Germany lies in the spirit of those who in good faith have supported the Republic, such as it is. To put into the Presidency a man less devoted to the Republic than Ebert would be a warning to the world. To put into Ebert's place, however, such a man as Dr. Marx, the former Chancellor, would be reassuring.

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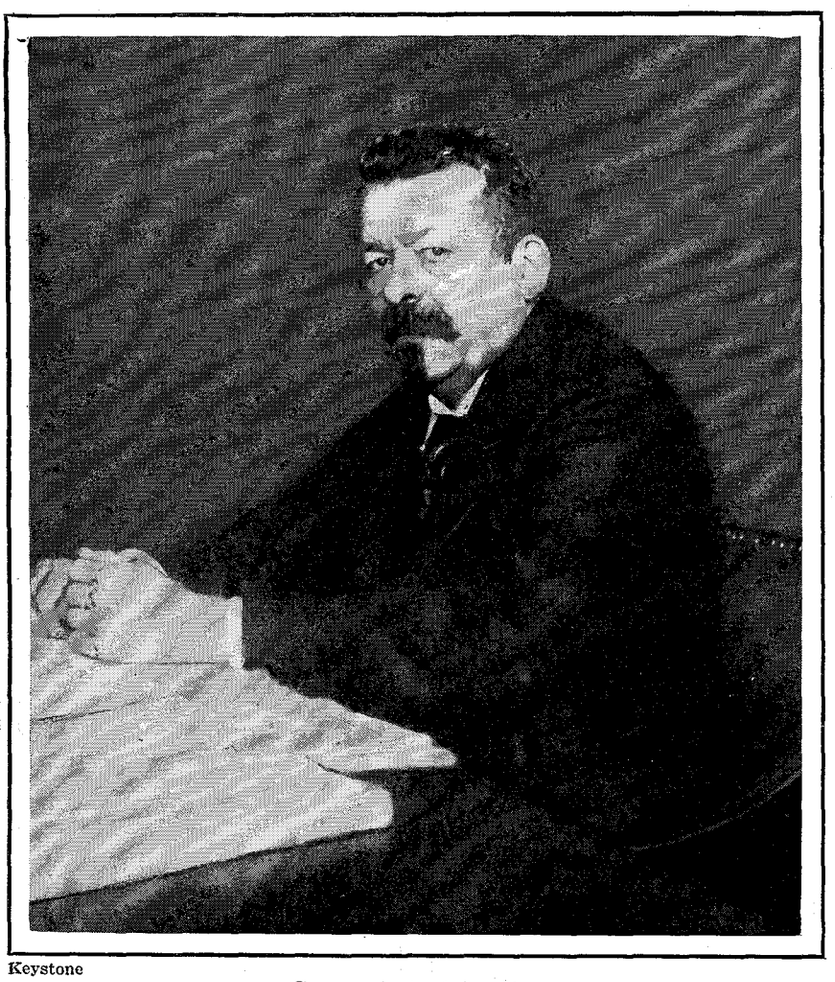

Keystone

Germany's dead President

This is one of the times when Germany has come to the fork in the road.

The Forest Service

CONSERVATION came out of conflict.

For years great numbers of men, and of women also, were not only partisans, but participants in a fight to determine the question whether the country's natural resources should be used lavishly for merely present needs or should be conserved for future use as well. For a time the people of the whole country watched as from the seats of a great stadium the progress of the fight. The spectators themselves occasionally became combatants. This conflict culminated in the famous Pinchot-Ballinger case.

What stirred the people to take part in this conflict was the leadership of Theodore Roosevelt.

Since those days interest in Conservation has waned. In a certain sense this decline of public interest is a healthy sign. It indicates that the fight for Conservation has been won. No longer do whole communities and great interests concert together to thwart the public interest for the sake of laying their hands on coveted riches without regard to the future. Measurably, self-interest has become enlightened and far-sighted, and sees the injury in wasteful exploitation. But, on the other hand, this decline of public interest is unhealthy, showing an apathy dangerous in a self-governing people. It means that the people are less watchful of those public servants who are the custodians of the people's property.

The worst effect of this loss of interest in Conservation is upon the custodians themselves. They have been so long uncriticised and unopposed that they have lost that habit of fortifying themselves and their cause which comes from opposition, and have lost somewhat, too, the faculty of making that clear accounting of their stewardship which would be inevitable if they were constantly called to account. These public servants have not themselves lost any part of their interest in their cause, but, in the absence of a spontaneous public interest in it, they have sought public support for their cause by appealing to incidental interests.

Of this the Forest Service is an outstanding example.

When the Forest Service was established twenty years ago, it was charged with a function that had been discussed for more than thirty years. It was in 1874 that the American Association for the Advancement of Science submitted to Congress a memorial urging the need for protecting our forests. In conquering this continent the American people had practically treated the forest as a thing to be subdued, an enemy. And so it was at the outset. But its possibilities as friend were so disregarded that in the course of the years timber lands had been laid waste. The wealth of the country in its woodlands was in danger of being dissipated altogether. It took nearly a generation for the people of this country to become aroused to action to save for continuous use the wealth of their forests.

In 1891 Congress authorized the President to set aside forests in the National domain. In the six years following 20,000,000 acres were so set aside. But these reserves were not administered or used for the good of the country. They lay idle while the country made up its mind as to what to do with them. In 1881 a Division of Forestry had been created in the Department of Agriculture, but it had nothing to do with these reserves. It was charged merely with authority to investigate and advise on forestry problems. For many years it received annual appropriations of not more than $15,000 to $30,000 a year. At the end of 1896 the President set aside an additional 20,000,000 acres of public lands as forest reserves, and shortly following Congress enacted a law setting up the beginning of machinery for National Forest administration. It is this administrative machinery, first intrusted to the Department of the Interior, which has now become the great and powerful Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture.

It is no wonder that the Forest Service became a center of conflict. People who hungered for the wealth of these growing reserves sought to break down the guardianship of the Forest Service. But the Nation maintained its right to withhold resources from immediate economic use, to safeguard them for the future, to prevent waste, and to regulate present use in the interest of economy and of justice for all concerned.

Therefore timber is cut in the National Forests, but cut only under regulations authorized by law; grass in the National Forests furnishes support for live stock privately owned, but all grazing must be authorized by annual permits; minerals in the National Forests are mined, but

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mining must conform to stipulated conditions; the resources of the National Forests in general may be used, but all use of them is subject to the public interest of which the Forest Service is trustee.

With characteristic foresight, President Roosevelt, in his first annual Message, four years before the Forest Service was charged with administrative duties, declared:

> Wise forest protection does not mean the withdrawal of forest resources, whether of wood, water, or grass, from contributing their full share to the welfare of the people, but, on the contrary, gives the assurance of larger and more certain supplies. The fundamental idea of forestry is the perpetuation of forests by use. Forest protection is not an end of itself; it is a means to increase and sustain the resources of our country and the industries which depend upon them.

Even at that early date President Roosevelt saw the value in the forests' by-products; for he said:

> Some at least of the forest reserves should afford perpetual protection to the native fauna and flora, safe havens of refuge to our rapidly diminishing wild animals of the larger kinds, and free camping-grounds for the ever-increasing numbers of men and women who have learned to find rest, health, and recreation in the splendid forests and flower-clad meadows of our mountains. The forest reserves should be set apart forever for the use and benefit of our people as a whole and not sacrificed to the short-sighted greed of a few.

The proper emphasis now, as when President Roosevelt wrote over twenty-three years ago, is, to use the words of President Wilson's capable Secretary of Agriculture, David F. Houston, on the "principal purpose in establishing the forests," namely, "to secure sound economic and industrial development."

From that purpose the Forest Service should not allow itself to be diverted. From attention to that purpose the public mind should not allow itself to be diverted. As a by-product of the National Forests recreation has its useful purpose now as it has had from the beginning; but it was not at first and it ought not to be now regarded as a major function of the Forest Service.

Within twenty years conditions have changed. The automobile has carried into the National Forests people who before it was commonly used could not have dreamed of going there. As a consequence pressure has been brought to bear upon the Forest Service to give constantly increasing attention to the recreative use of the National Forests. And, in turn, the Forest Service has found it increasingly easy to appeal for popular support to the public interest in recreation instead of to the public interest in Conservation. This changed situation emphasizes the importance of what President Roosevelt said about the need of employing "*some* at least of the forest reserves" for camping-grounds and the like; but at the same time it affords occasion for special vigilance against the diversion of the Forests from their main purpose.

It is not the Forest Service that finally determines the forest policy of this country. It is not even Congress. It is intelligent public opinion, and this opinion, awakened and alert, must determine where the line properly runs between the primary and the secondary or incidental uses of the National Forests.

The question whether the line drawn by law and public approval is being followed by the Forest Service is one to which we shall revert in future editorials.

Mr. Gregg and Col. Greeley

Not a Private Issue

IN publishing Mr. Gregg's article in its issue for February 11 which asks the question "Has Our Forest Service 'Gone Daffy'?" and the reply by Colonel W. B. Greeley, Chief of the United States Forest Service, last week, The Outlook has brought to public notice and discussion important questions of National forest policy.

What we have twice said heretofore we here repeat, that no question has been raised and no insinuation has been made concerning the honesty of the Forest Service's officers or employees. A careful rereading of Mr. Gregg's article should clear up misapprehension on that point in any impartial mind. That opportunities for dishonesty and collusion exist in all relations between Government and private interests is indubitable. What Mr. Gregg asked is what any citizen has a right to ask of any trustee of public property —What measures specifically are taken to see that this property is administered honestly as well as competently? Such questions are not answered by describing them as charges disguised by innuendo. In fact, Mr. Gregg's article was in substance a series of questions as to fundamental forest policies which were raised by his reading of the Chief Forester's last annual report. Mr. Gregg's article was not free from error, as he himself admits; neither, we believe, is Colonel Greeley's reply. Many of Mr. Gregg's questions Colonel Greeley has answered with force and persuasiveness. As a contributor to The Outlook Colonel Greeley has been more enlightening than Chief Forester Greeley as a writer of an official report.

There remain, however, several important questions concerning forest policy which should be considered by the people of the country. They relate to the proper conservation and development of our National forest resources, as President Roosevelt said in his first Presidential Message, "for the use and benefit of our people as a whole." To these questions The Outlook will devote a series of editorials, the first of which is printed on this page. ERNEST HAMLIN ABBOTT.

The Inaugural

CALVIN COOLIDGE'S Inaugural Address is his greatest utterance thus far. It has the elements of true eloquence. There are in it phrases unsurpassed in the papers of the Presidents. There is in it clarity of thought and of expression. And through it there breathes a quiet courage.

In this address Calvin Coolidge has done two heroic things. He has had, in the first place, the hardihood to write and deliver a short address, dealing with only a few subjects, and with those in broad terms—the hardihood to leave a great deal unsaid, to defy the custom which so long has forced Presidents to load down their Messages and speeches with tiresome details of every subject of public concern. In the second place, he has had the courage to make his address frankly religious in tone and in content. The outspoken declaration of faith appears early in his address and is reiterated in these closing sentences: "The legions which she [America] sends forth are armed, not with the sword, but with the cross. The higher state to which she seeks the allegiance of all mankind is not of human, but of divine origin. She

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cherishes no purpose save to merit the favor of Almighty God."

Two subjects, and two only, does Calvin Coolidge discuss. One is the duty of the United States to the world. The other is the duty of the successful political party to the people. Whatever things else find place in the address are mentioned because of their bearing upon these two—and, to the joy of overtaxed readers, they are mentioned briefly.

In his discussion of foreign relations the President has evidently been frankly himself. He has followed no convention and appealed to no mass conviction. He would have the United States maintain "such a military force as comports with the dignity and security of a great people," "a balanced force, intensely modern, capable of defense by sea and land, beneath the surface and in the air," but "so conducted that all the world may see in it, not a menace, but an instrument of security and peace." He would have the United States adhere to the World Court. That has long been his settled, expressed conviction. He would have the United States encourage peace by example, and he specifies how the example may be set. Limitation of armaments, yes—but more than that. "If we expect others to rely on our fairness and justice," he says, "we must show that we rely on their fairness and justice." "We ought not to withhold our own sanction [of efforts at international amity] because of any small and inessential difference, but only upon the ground of the most important and compelling fundamental reasons. . . . The weight of our enormous influence must be cast on the side of a reign not of force but of law and trial, not by battle but by reason." The advancing of money for the relief of the Old World, to mitigate human suffering and to rehabilitate distressed nations, "are requirements which must be met by reason of our vast powers and the place we hold in the world." "One of the most practical things to be done in the world is to seek arrangements under which such [economic] pressure may be removed [from nations], so that opportunity may be renewed and hope may be revived." Here is "a real duty for America to respond with her counsel and her resources." Then comes the President's deepest conviction on this point: "Peace will come when there is realization that only under a reign of law, based on righteousness and supported by the religious conviction of the brotherhood of man, can there be any hope of a complete and satisfying life. Parchment will fail, the sword will fail, it is only the spiritual nature of man that can be triumphant." Holding that it is "altogether probable" that we of America can contribute most to such objects by maintaining our "position of political detachment and independence," the President emphasizes the duty of using "our enormous powers to trim the balance of the world."

Then says the President, the continued success of what we do abroad depends upon what we do at home. Here comes the opportunity to demand party loyalty—which to him is synonymous with duty to the people—of those who were elected with him to discharge the duties of government. The majority in Congress is charged to carry out the mandate of the people by fulfilling the party promises. "The party label must be something more than a mere device for securing office. Unless those who are elected under the same party designation are willing to assume sufficient responsibility and exhibit sufficient loyalty and coherence, so that they can co-operate with each other in the support of the broad general principles of the party platform, the election is merely a mockery, no decision is made at the polls, and there is no representation of the popular will. Common honesty and good faith with the people who support a party at the polls require that party, when it enters office, to assume the control of that portion of the Government to which it has been elected. Any other course is bad faith. . . . When the country has bestowed its confidence upon a party by making it a majority in the Congress, it has a right to expect such unity of action as will make the party majority an effective instrument of government."

The President sees in the result of the recent election a clear mandate to his party. That mandate is to maintain the integrity of the courts, to maintain private ownership in property, and to practice economy in public expenditures with reduction and reform of taxation. "No matter what others may want, these people" who meet the enhanced cost of living in their monthly bills "want a drastic economy."

Thus far in his public career President Coolidge has advocated economy. Now he gives the reasons for the faith that is in him: "I favor the policy of economy, not because I wish to save money, but because I wish to save people." "Extravagance lengthens the hours and diminishes the rewards of their labor." "Every dollar that we carelessly waste means that their life will be so much the more meager. Every dollar that we prudently save means that their life will be so much the more abundant. Economy is idealism in its most practical form."

The People's Post Office

THE Postal Bill, raising postal salaries and postal rates, has been passed and signed by the President to the great satisfaction of many people. The Post Office employees are highly satisfied—a great many of them deserved more pay, and all of them are glad to get an increase; the people at large are satisfied because they wanted to be sure that the postal workers were not underpaid; the President is satisfied because Congress provided the money without laying a tax. As to those who will actually provide the money—namely, the users of post office facilities other than those for sealed letters—they will accept the burden and be thankful that it is no worse.

Yet this seems a fitting time to point out again two or three elementary principles about the relations of the Post Office and the people.

The Post Office Department is not a business; it is a service. It is not supported by the appropriation of funds raised wholly by taxes, as are virtually all the other departments, because this particular kind of service cannot be carried on practically without some direct payment by each citizen using it. When a man puts a two-cent stamp on a letter, there is no pretense that he is paying for the cost of carrying and delivering that letter to its addressee. But the stamp system is necessary to prevent unfair competition between citizens for the use of postal facilities. The stamp is what makes the postal service possible; it is not a specific payment for a specific service. But the illusion has arisen and seems to have been accepted as fact by Congress and recent Postmasters-General that the cost and the revenue must balance. In no other department does this idea exist. The Agricultural Department, for instance, does immense service to farmers and others, yet nothing could

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be more preposterous than to ask that it should be paid for all its services separately by individuals or that its receipts and outgo should balance. The Federal taxpayers pay the cost and Congress appropriates the money. No one wants the Post Office to get all or any large part of its funds that way; but neither do we want Congress or the Postmaster-General to consider that an even balance is a sacrosanct thing.

But advocates of the theory that the Post Office must "come out even" every year go much further. They insist that each class of matter should pay its own expenses, invariably and exactly. This is theory gone wild. Those who are fascinated by this arithmetical way of looking at postal service forget the object and value of that service. They are inconsistent, also, for they allow the Post Office to be charged with the cost of carrying many millions of dollars' worth of matter for the other departments—pamphlets, speeches, free Governmental correspondence—all of which under any fair accounting system should be charged up to the separate departments. Whenever the question of postal rates comes up, this wrong accounting is explained. Everybody admits it; nobody does anything about it.

What, then, is the principle underlying postal service? It has, of course, proper and valuable commercial uses. If that were all, the zone postal system might be fair. But it has had from the start a higher mission and a finer value. When the postal-zone proposal came up eight years ago, The Outlook declared: "A free Republic is dependent upon a free public opinion. . . . To destroy or impair such [*i. e.*, National] publications is to destroy or impair National opinion." And we then quoted with approval the utterance of a New York daily newspaper, made at the time when newspapers were not threatened by the zone proposal:

"It would be difficult to devise a more unintelligent, disastrous, and subversive piece of revenue production than the proposed increase in the rate on second-class mail matter. . . . We face the destruction of that great force which we have been striving to create—the force of a united public opinion and a crystallized National sentiment."

It is one of the functions of government to help the people all over the country to get, through books, newspapers, and other periodicals education, information, and mental and moral stimulus. Let us have less of scientifically constructed rate schedules and more of a helpful recognition of the splendid opportunities for service in this direction. The essence of the postal service was never more nobly expressed than in the inscription on the Washington Post Office, quoted not long ago in these columns, but eminently worth requoting and remembering: "Courier of news and knowledge, instrument of trade and industry, promoter of mutual acquaintance, peace, and good will among nations." Whatever helps carry out this ideal is good; whatever hinders it is wrong. To it should be bent most of the effort that is now devoted to fanciful balancing of class rates and demarking of zone divisions.

Dr. Fosdick's Religion

DR. HARRY EMERSON FOSDICK has been taken by his opponents from his pulpit in the First Presbyterian Church in New York City, only to become more than ever a preacher to the Nation.

In Spain heresy-hunting did actually repress the free expression of opinion; but there it was backed by the force of the state and a dominant Church. Here in free America it does not exterminate the game, but scatters it and extends its habitat. And when it is authorized in the name of Protestantism, which itself was a protest against external authority in religion, it is doubly ineffective.

Dr. Fosdick has been called a Modernist, and regards himself as a Liberal. It is, however, primarily not Modernism or even Liberalism that he is preaching. It is true that he is a defender of liberty, and in that sense is a Liberal. It is true that he believes Christianity should be couched in modern terms, and to that extent is a Modernist. But the weight of his preaching is on something more fundamental. If words were used in their true meaning, he might well be called a Fundamentalist.

There are in Christianity two elements. One is the element of belief; the other is the element of faith. Or, to put the same thought in other words, Christianity includes two kinds of religion. It is sometimes considered as if it were exclusively a religion about Christ—dogmas about him, doctrines about him, beliefs about him, opinions about him, theories about him. Those who think of Christianity in this way are very sure that what they believe about Christ is right and what those believe who believe otherwise about him is wrong. But as they differ among themselves they tend to divide into sects and to split up Christianity into different and sometimes contradictory religions. But Christianity can be considered otherwise, not as a religion about Christ, but as Christ's religion, the kind of life Christ lived, the kind of spirit he put into living, the kind of things he did, the kind of relation he had with men and with God. And those who think of Christianity in this way tend not to divide, but to unite. They want to have in themselves that spirit, that kind of life, that attitude of mind and soul. They may not always agree with one another as to what the application of that spirit to life to-day would mean in specific cases; but they find strength in mutual reinforcement. They are willing to let the theories about Christ wait upon the acquirement of his spirit.

It is true that no one can really care about putting the spirit of Christ into life without having some opinions about Christ; just as no one can care for a friend without being able to give some account of him. Yet it is the friendship, not the opinion about the friendship, that counts. So it is the translation of the spirit of Christ into life that counts, and not the many theories about him, whether Liberal or Conservative, whether Fundamentalist or Modernist, whether sanctioned by creed and council or only by each one who tries to follow him.

This religion of Christ, as distinct from a religion about him, is an uncomfortable religion. It enters into business and questions business practices. It enters the home, and government, and education, and recreation, and indeed everything that concerns a person's life. But that is the kind of religion that Christ himself emphasized. "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. . . . Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock." This does not mean that beliefs are of no consequence. It means that beliefs are secondary. "If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine."

It is this superiority of a religion of

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life to a religion of theory, and not any theory itself, whether Modernistic and Liberalistic or not, that Dr. Fosdick has been preaching. This is the substance of his message. And his opponents have given him, as he has said, a sounding-board which will carry his message farther than ever before.

ERNEST HAMLIN ABBOTT.

The Public and the Forests

A WIDE interest, some of it indignant, aroused by the publication of William C. Gregg's article "Has Our Forest Service 'Gone Daffy'?" is indicated by the many letters, short and long, which have come to The Outlook about it. To print these letters would require more space than we have at our command. Most of the points raised by our correspondents have been covered in Colonel Greeley's able article printed last week. We herewith print two communications which deserve wide publicity.

The first is from Dr. David F. Houston, who was Secretary of Agriculture in President Wilson's Administration. His letter was sent to us in response to our request for information. Before the publication of Mr. Gregg's article we sent a copy of it to Dr. Houston with a letter in which we wrote:

> We believe that the public is favorable to the retention of the Forest Service in the Department of Agriculture. We believe it should be kept where it is provided the Secretary of Agriculture has the time to familiarize himself with the various Forest Service areas, and to keep the general policies and direction of work in his own hands.
>
> It would aid us materially in forming our judgment if you would tell us how many Forest Service areas you were able to visit while you were Secretary of Agriculture, and whether you had the time from your other duties to do justice to reforestation and timber-cutting questions.
>
> If you think the Secretary of Agriculture has too many bureaus to look after, would you care to suggest transfers or consolidation to give him a freer hand to protect our forests?

Dr. Houston's seven-year term as Secretary of Agriculture was surpassed in that Department by only the sixteen-year term of the late James F. Wilson. He has been a distinguished educator, a leader in agriculture, a National administrator of finance as Secretary of the Treasury. No living man has quite his qualifications for answering such questions as we have put to him.

Dr. Houston's Reply

I HAVE your letter of February 7 with the attached February 11 issue of The Outlook.

I think it would be a tragedy to transfer the Forest Service from the Department of Agriculture to any other department or agency. When the Forest Service was transferred to the Department of Agriculture from the Department of the Interior, the Forests were supporting a relatively small number of animals and the grazing was steadily deteriorating. To-day, under regulation by the Department of Agriculture, they are supporting in the neighborhood of 11,000,000 animals and the grazing conditions have improved. Several years ago the number of animals was larger than it is to-day, but, as you know, the last few years have been unfavorable to live stock. Most of the problems in the National Forests are agricultural, such as grazing, timber cutting, reforestation, water power so far as it affects irrigation, predatory animal control, and road work. No other department has the necessary machinery or the desirable state of mind for dealing with such problems. As you know, the Department of Agriculture is largely non-political—more so than any other. Its personnel is in the classified service, appointed for merit, except a few officers, such as the Secretary, the Assistant Secretaries, and the Chief of the Weather Bureau. It would certainly be a sad mistake to transfer the Forest Service to the Department of the Interior.

I cannot give you the exact number of forest areas which I visited. You will recall that most of the time I was in Washington the situation was very much disturbed. But, notwithstanding this fact, I made a number of trips to forest areas, spending on at least two occasions several weeks in the Forests with the officials on the ground. I visited every district forester's headquarters and had an opportunity to see something of the different sorts of forestry activities in New Mexico, Arizona, southern, eastern, and northern California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Wyoming, Nevada, Utah, Montana, and Colorado. I also visited certain of the new forest areas in the East, such as the Pisgah in North Carolina, those in the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia, and the areas near the White Mountains. I was not aware of lack of time or inability to do justice to the problems presented to me for consideration. I had full confidence in the Chief Forester, first Mr. Graves and later Mr. Greeley, and much confidence in the entire personnel.

I do not think that there are too many bureaus in the Department of Agriculture for a Secretary of Agriculture to look after. As the Department is organized, if the Secretary has the requisite capacity and executive ability, he ought to be able not only to visit forest areas several times a year but to give sufficient time to the consideration of any problems presented.

I may add that if I were arranging the matter I should provide for regulated grazing on the public domain and give jurisdiction of the same to the Secretary of Agriculture, and I should likewise carefully consider transferring the National Parks to the Department of Agriculture.

I do not recognize the picture of the Forest Service presented in the February 11 Outlook. It certainly does not picture the Service as I knew it, and I am not at all convinced by the article that the situation is essentially different from what it was when I was in Washington. I know that the Forest Service is rendering a great service in the regulation of grazing of millions of animals, in the building of roads and trails, in controlling timber cutting, in the experimental and practical reforestation, and in fire control. It recognizes that the control of fire is the best way to protect the Forests and to secure reforestation. It is true that in the last few years the number of fires and the fire losses have been very great, but it is also true that the climatic conditions have been highly unfavorable.

I do not think that the recreational uses of the National Forests are incompatible with good forestry methods. It is my belief that the Forest Service is justified in encouraging recreational uses under regulation. I was not aware, and do not now believe, that the Forest Service gives an undue part of its thought or of its funds to such purposes.

Of course, I speak without intimate knowledge for the years since I left Washington. But I have confidence in Colonel Greeley, the Chief Forester, and I imagine he would give a satisfactory report of these things.

Very truly yours,

D. F. HOUSTON.

THE other statement concerning Mr. Gregg's article is from the man who has perhaps the greatest distinction among private citizens as an authority on

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the whole question of forestry, Mr. Charles Lathrop Pack, President of the American Tree Association, which has its headquarters at Washington, D. C. Mr. Pack's statement has come to us unsolicited. In fact, it was released for general publication by the press. We should like to make a distinction which Mr. Pack's statement does not include. The article expressed Mr. Gregg's opinion, not necessarily The Outlook's. Our editorial comment is on another page. It is also only fair to add that if the picture which Mr. Gregg sees of the Forest Service is not a true one, it is in large part because that picture was drawn in the report of the Chief Forester.

Mr. Pack's Statement

THE OUTLOOK does a public service in putting the article ["Has Our Forest Service 'Gone Daffy'?"] before its readers, for the discussion that is bound to follow will introduce the needs of the National Forests and the work of the United States Forest Service to thousands of people. Forest Protection Week, April 27, also helps direct public thought to the forests.

In my opinion, The Outlook overlooks the immense educational value of getting people into the National Forests during summer outings. The article points out the money being spent by the Forest Service for the building of roads. In Europe, where they practice scientific forestry, permanent good roads are essential to non-wasteful continuous operations.

These roads, then, serve a double purpose, for they also permit the tourist to get into the camps provided for his recreation—camps where the ranger can watch the camp-fires. I am of the opinion that no visitor to these National Forests goes away without wishing that we had more forests everywhere.

We in this country are in the first-reader stage of our forestry education. There is only one way to attain the things The Outlook would like to see done, and all of us would like to see done, including the Forest Service, and that is to have sufficient public opinion behind the demand for such things.

The educational campaigns of the American Tree Association are directed at that objective. One of the best proofs of the value of the educational campaigns of the American Tree Association is the printing of the article in The Outlook. Editors all over the country are constantly printing more and more information on these very subjects. Why? Because the editor who watches the public trend more closely perhaps than any other set of men knows people are talking about our forest resources and what should be done to increase them.

There is a bill for National Forest extension in the Congress that has the approval of all true conservationists. This measure provides for three millions of dollars a year for five years and five millions of dollars a year for another five years for the purchase of such areas mostly in the eastern part of the United States. The Outlook should approve this measure, for it will provide areas where forestry can be practiced far better than in the present National Forests, mostly in the West, because the timber crop, when it does come along, will be close to the points of the greatest consumption. That, I take it, is exactly what The Outlook wants to see done.

Let us remember that true conservation means use. Recreation is a by-product of real forestry as practiced in European countries. Look at the town forest and the State forest proposition. Suppose a thousand municipalities in this country had town forests. What would it mean to such communities in revenue and health and recreation?

The Outlook points out that ten million people, according to the Forest Service report, visited the National Forests during the year. I wish the figure was fifty million instead of what it was. Then we would have fifty million people who knew at least a little bit about these things and we would have fifty million people who would be demanding constructive forestry, which means a timber crop every year commensurate with our needs.

Are Americans "Cloudy Idealists"?

By ELBERT FRANCIS BALDWIN

The Outlook's Editorial Correspondent in Europe

GRAND smash! The Americans —"cloudy idealists," according to the Dutch—retire from the Opium Conference.

I am not exactly surprised. We have been up against overwhelming odds. The last straw was when our opponents actually refused to begin the reform they accepted in principle until smuggling had ceased to be a danger! As it will never cease to be a danger, the affront to common intelligence in this ultimatum was evident.

Thus, after more than two months of discussions (really a hundred days, including adjournments), it appears that the purpose for which the Conference was called cannot be accomplished; that is to say, the suppression of the production of raw opium and coca leaves for other than medical and scientific purposes.

The Far Eastern Problem

IF that is the case with the producing countries, we hoped that the states possessing territories where the use of smoking opium is permitted would adopt measures restricting the raw opium import for the making of smoking opium, or, at least, would agree to suppress the traffic within a reasonable period. Thus it would have been possible to reduce the market for raw opium. A limitation of production would inevitably follow. Unfortunately, however, these states, Japan excepted, do not seem ready to reduce the smoking consumption unless the producing states consent to reduce their production and prevent smuggling from their territories. Strong Britain, the supposed lover of fair play, thus demands that weak China shall prevent smuggling as a condition precedent to any British reforms! Of course, given such an attitude, no restriction of production can be expected. The London "Times" itself, with its usual fairness, says that "the modest British proposals . . . must *unfortunately* [italics mine] be dependent on the suppression of opium smuggling from China."

Under the circumstances, the American delegation, pursuant to its Government's instructions and with President Coolidge's authorization, can no longer, it announced, participate in the work of the Conference.

Paul at Damascus

BUT are these the final circumstances? If they are, then our delegation is most assuredly right in withdrawing.

Yet it withdrew on a committee vote, not on a vote of the whole Conference. If our people were good sports enough to stay here a hundred days, they

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might have stayed the few days longer necessary between a committee vote and a Conference vote. In the latter they were sure, beyond the peradventure of a doubt, that they would be defeated, just as they were in the committee representing the whole Conference. But who knows what would have happened? While it certainly looked as if defeat was inevitable in the end, who can affirm that all the resources of agreement have been exhausted? This is Lord Cecil's view. I have had repeated and lengthy interviews with him, as I have had, of course, with our own delegates. I have also just heard M. Daladier (Minister of Colonies and the first French delegate here) deplore our withdrawal on exactly this ground, adding that later proceedings would have brought opponents together. Thus the world might possibly have gained something had our delegates remained. For, sure as you may feel about anything, you never can foretell exactly what may occur. Saul may have been near Damascus, expecting to enter it as Saul, when lo! a great light transforms him into Paul.

Publicity

On the other hand, one thing is welcome and certain. The splash of our sudden withdrawal attained a great end—publicity. Had we withdrawn less dramatically at the close of the Conference, there would not have been the same sensation. The man in the street will now wake up and ask: "What does this mean? Here's a pretty how-de-do! The American delegates are too disheartened to wait till the Conference closes." The opium problem will get into the newspaper headlines as hardly otherwise. This I remarked to Lord Cecil, and he replied, "I heartily agree with you."

Congress Commands

One thing in especial deserves to be taken into consideration. "Your delegation was the only one here bound by a law of your Legislature as well as by the instructions of your Foreign Office. That has been the fundamental trouble in the negotiations, and it has been insufficiently recognized. Your delegation simply had to be inelastic, rigid." So said to me the highest authority here. He continued: "Mr. Porter, the head of your delegation, is generally credited with having drawn his own instructions so far as they were embodied in the Congressional resolution. Your delegates were ordered to sign no convention not providing for the carrying out of your basic demand."

That is true, but, as Mr. Porter remarked to me some time ago, "You can't compromise with vice." Bound hard and fast as they were, when, despite long and arduous labors, they believed that they could not even "put over" a definite date for the beginning of the reform it was their duty, they felt, to withdraw.

The "Irreconcilables"

There have been three things to do at Geneva—to check the production, to check the consumption, and to check the manufacture of narcotics. If reform of production and consumption has not been attained, this is not true of the drug manufacture, and our withdrawal may not affect our assent to the convention, now almost ready for the printer, concerning manufacturing drugs. This convention, as our delegation testifies, shows a noticeable improvement over the Hague Convention of 1912. In framing both America has played a prominent part.

Aside from certain features, such as, for example, severer rules concerning certificates for export and import and also concerning free ports and zones, the chief feature of the convention consists in the erection of a central Committee to regulate the international traffic in habit-forming drugs. Its functions are to be exercised with entire independence, but because it must report every year to the League of Nations some of our Senate "irreconcilables" regard this Committee as a super-state organ. Hence, though we have set our own American house fairly well in order, and though, consequently, the new convention will not affect us nearly as much as it will affect, for instance, Germany or Switzerland, the "irreconcilables" claim that our co-operation would be intolerable.

The Bag's Wrong End

When Herluf Zahle, President of the Conference, read Mr. Porter's courteous letter announcing our withdrawal, every one felt as if passing through a historic moment. As in a flash Holland and Portugal, aye, England and France, were seen holding the wrong end of the bag! In view of this, England and France at least will be restive. The end of the opium evil is in sight!

For the moment, however, the world is divided into two camps. We lead one; in it you can find many Chinese, Japanese, Siamese, Persians, Egyptians, Australians, Canadians, Irish, Scandinavians, Poles, Czechs, Italians, Spanish, almost all the Swiss, not a few English, and the Latin-Americans except the Bolivians and Peruvians. The Dutch and Portuguese lead the other camp; in it you can find all the English in India, together with most of the English at home, the "official" French, all the Germans and most of the Austrians, a very few Swiss of the German-influenced Basle variety, the Jugoslavians, Bulgarians, Greeks, Turks, Bolivians, and Peruvians.

To Sum Up

General opinion here thus sums up the American effort at Geneva:

(1) "Cloudy idealists," we have nevertheless had a moral victory in making the Powers pledge themselves again and again to our principle—to regard as an abuse the use of the products of opium and coca leaves for other than medical and scientific purposes and in putting these Powers, now in an apologetic attitude, on the defensive.

(2) We have obtained a material victory in making the Powers declare that to prevent this abuse production must be limited to medical and scientific purposes.

(3) As to smoking opium, we have forced the Powers to agree to a period of years during which an end is to be put to this practice in those territories where it is now permitted by law.

(4) We have failed to induce the Powers to agree upon a definite, fixed date for beginning the reform.

(5) We have not been able to persuade the Powers to prohibit heroin.

(6) We have largely contributed to the new drug convention, registering a distinct advance.

The League of Nations

Of course, our withdrawal in no way means that we will cease efforts, through international co-operation, to suppress the opium evil; it can only be suppressed through such co-operation.

Yet how will our temporary absence from Geneva affect the League of Nations prestige? At first, doubtless, with some folk at home, there may be an immediate feeling that "the League might have prevented our withdrawal." As a matter of fact, the League had nothing to do with the withdrawal; our delegates have expressed the utmost appreciation for the League's hospitality, especially for the very friendly and sympathetic association with Dame Rachel Crowdy, head of the League's Department of humanitarian work (white-slave traffic, work among women and children, rescue and relief endeavors, habit-forming drug reform, etc.). The reforms proposed were checked, not at all by the League, but by the people above mentioned. The League remains a useful institution to the rest of the world, and to us too, in its administrative, financial, economical, and humanitarian endeavors.

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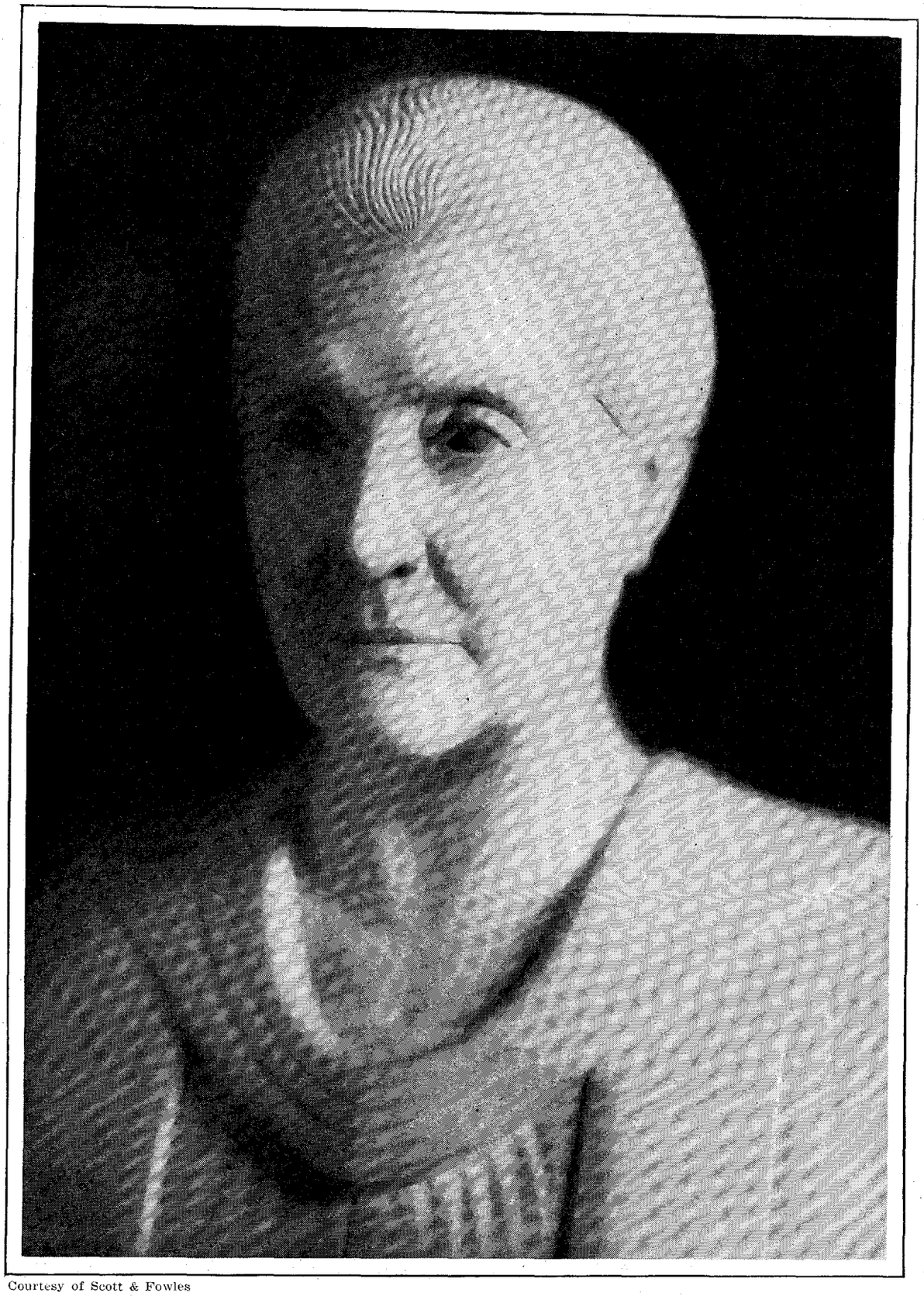
From the Chisel



Courtesy of Scott & Fowles

Here are two recent busts by one of the most distinguished American sculptors. Mr. Manship
Bryn Mawr College, and of his own daughter Elizabeth. Apparently he

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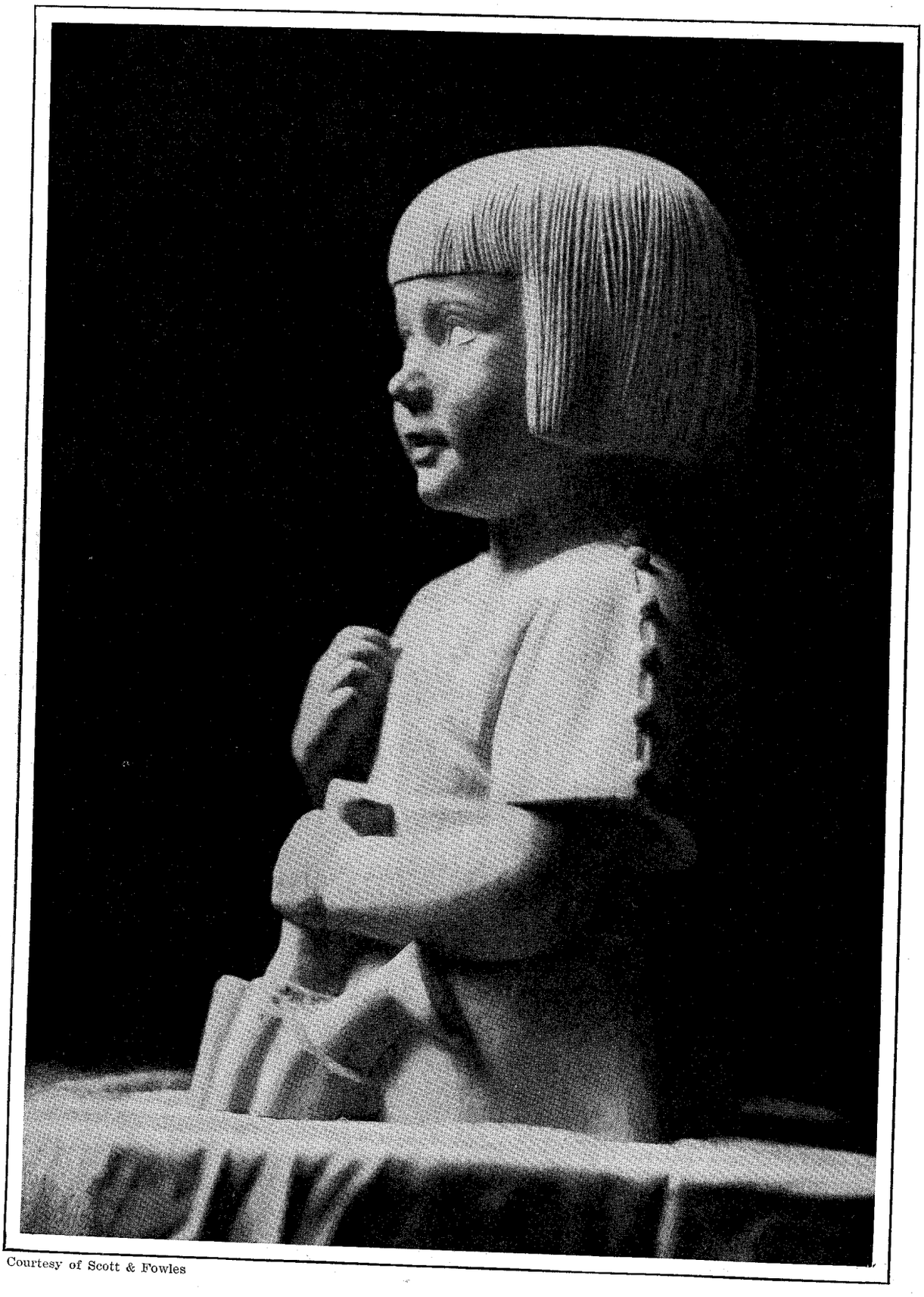
# of Paul Manship



Courtesy of Scott & Fowles

displays in marble the counterfeit presentment of Miss M. Carey Thomas, former President of didn't consider the features of Elizabeth's doll worthy of immortality

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"You, Who Love Beauty"

Rondel on the Flyleaf of an Anthology of Verse

By HERMANN HAGEDORN

You, who love beauty, why the many tears?
Shall those, who see, more sad be than the blind?
Why will you send your sobbing down the wind
To win from the unseeing, laughter and jeers?
For you the dawn a shining palace rears,
Where singing hours undying garlands bind.
You, who love beauty, why the many tears?
Shall those, who see, more sad be than the blind?

The unseeing have no balm for painful years.
To you, uncalled, comes wonder, shy and kind.
Oh, heart, what warmth! what light, oh, troubled mind!
Beauty is joy, though it be ringed with spears!
You, who love beauty, why the many tears?

Keeping the Stage Clean

By FRANCIS WILSON

The New York stage is suffering from an attack of sultry plays, put on by managers whose slogan might well be, "Dirt brings in the cash." Francis Wilson discusses with authority the proposals for censorship and the ideals of his profession

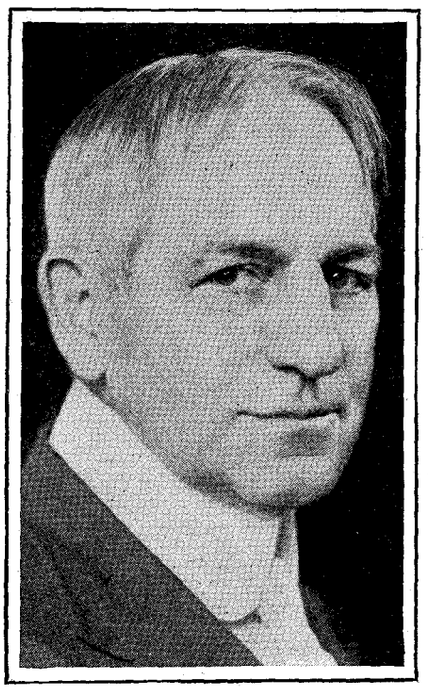
ONCE more the guns of reform are trained against the stage, which, in the phrase of Dickens's cockney fop, Mantalini, appears again to be "going to the demnition bow-wows."

Usually the aim is at the actor. Just now it is the manager and the dramatist who are coming in for castigation. Both are involved, for the latter must write what the former will accept.

It is glowing evidence of the affection in which the stage is held by the people that they should want to keep it clean. They are awakening to the fact that the stage deals with the most dynamic force in life—emotion—and that for this reason it wields a powerful influence for good or evil. Practically, it is exciting this influence in every waking hour. Some who think much on the subject have come to regard it as of equal importance (as a social consideration) with heredity and environment in the study of biology.

Whether the stage can be "kept clean" by police interference and legal prosecutions is a matter of grave doubt. That this would lead to no result except personal exploitation and endless notoriety, with free advertising for the objectionable play, is a certainty. This has been the result of every previous action of the kind.

Because of public opinion the authorities feel impelled to take some action, however feeble. Perhaps it is hoped that soon this sensation will be supplanted by another and the matter blurred and, ultimately, forgotten. Next year will see a repeated attack, if not upon the stage, then upon books, poems, or the newspapers because of their freedom of expression. This assumption of a "holier-than-thou" attitude is one of the cheapest and most successful means of self-advertisement.



White Studio

Francis Wilson, a star in many successful productions and a gallant fighter for the rights and dignity of his chosen profession

To the surprise expressed by a woman that he should have defined certain vulgar words in his dictionary, Dr. Johnson made reply: "Ah, madam, you have been searching for them."

It is in searching for the vulgar, the lewd, and the immoral, and especially in giving them undue prominence through private and public discussion, that much of the mischief lies. There should, of course, always be access to such things for the special student, places where the knowledge of such things are set down, and Johnson included some of them in his dictionary. Had Browning consulted his Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue, supposing him to have possessed one, he would have been spared one of the most astounding lapses of speech ever made by a public man.

So, too, as to this outcry against the uncleanliness of certain plays, an outcry which is now giving our New York public so much concern. If the lewdness, profanity, and immorality of "A Good Bad Woman" and other dramas had not been seized upon by the cumbersome and inadequate hands of the law and flaunted in the face of a largely primitive public (any great collection of people in a city must be largely primitive), much of it would have died of inanition. Indeed, at least one of the plays named was on the point of financial collapse until fanned into a flame of harmful success by abusive advertisement.

If the public could be trusted to do what it should do, namely, stay away from unworthy plays, there would be no need of censorship in the theater. To

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its credit be it said, the public largely does this until its curiosity is aroused by exasperated moralists and the workings of a law that is merely a well-meaning boomerang in its attempt to correct.

If as a result of all this we shall be driven into a political censorship, now Republican, now Democratic, the worst that could befall us will have happened. We should become a more ridiculous world spectacle than we were some years ago when the decision as to the morality or immorality of all stage productions, from Ibsen to Cohan, rested upon the judgment of a policeman whose unintellectual-looking countenance was the merriment of the universe.

Perhaps our country, towards which the lower classes of people from all lands have gravitated and are now favoring us with their new generations, is ripe for censorship of some form in the drama. It might serve to hold in check, not only the worst element of our greedy managers, but also the most primitive and prurient of our public. What form shall that censorship take? It positively must not be in the hands of a single individual.

The remedy for our present ills, then, seems to be in putting into action the Play Jury plan which was urged a few years ago and which, in Cleveland's phrase, fell into "innocuous desuetude" because of the unwillingness of the Commissioners of Licenses to support it, and of the opposition of theatrical managers. The opposition of the managers is easy to understand, that of the Commissioners is somewhat incomprehensible. All other plans having proved abortive, this at least should be given a trial.

This Play Jury has the advantage of being composed of representative people of the Church, the theater, and other arts and professions, people most likely to render a swift and capable verdict in the matter of art and morals, thus marking the unwillingness of the Commissioners of Licenses to co-operate with it all the more incomprehensible.

One of the strongest of its component parts is the Actors' Equity Association, which, with always the best interests of the theater at heart, has the power, through the terms of its contract with managers and actors, to withdraw actors from plays which have been voted to be immoral by the Play Jury.

Is there to be no accord and co-operation in the matter, or are we to go on year after year with these ineffective crusades against this "dirt for dirt's sake masquerading as art and realism"?

As I have said in a recently published autobiography, "there are certain dramas given yearly which are simply bald panderings to a public which likes salty

(C) Falk

Mr. Wilson in one of his earlier rôles, as leading comedian in "The Oolah"

fare, plays which have no wit, no moral, nothing but suggestiveness of situation, and about which no two minds, even those who love their theater with a tang, would disagree. Such plays are given a cordial preference by a certain type of producer and have no excuse for being except a nasty appeal to nasty minds, and but one purpose, commercial gain. The cancellation of a license or two would work a startling change and bring relief and satisfaction, not only to the public, but to the reputable manager who is constantly being brought into disrepute by his less conscientious fellow-worker."

There is no longer reason to doubt that a theater, being a public institution, is also a public trust. There is, however, a mistaken conviction in certain quarters that it is a private business in which it is an impertinence for others to meddle. But the theater, because of its influence for good or evil, passes the barrier of private enterprise, and therefore includes responsibility to the public, a responsibility which is no longer to be shirked.

Those who are in charge of this public trust should be held accountable for their administrations, as are the officials of other trusts. An institution like the theater which refreshes, entertains, and instructs mankind should not be permitted to be brought into disrepute by mercenary officials. If there is "anything in it" of value to the public, and there seems to be little doubt on this point, it should be conserved and the ravages of those who are exploiting it through the vulgar presentation of dirty sex problems should be summarily halted.

At the same time, great care should be exercised and some latitude permitted. Just how much would be the problem. Its solution should be left to a citizen jury of those capable of deciding discreetly, justly.

Worthy plays of unusual force containing valuable moral suggestions must not be condemned because of plain, rude speech if it is not downright, gratuitously blasphemous or filthy. Plain, rude speech, such as is impulsively spoken in anger or anguish by red-blooded people, never hurt anybody worth hurting, no matter what may be said by the squeamish. Nor is a story which tells of life, if it is not disgusting, to be condemned if there is wit in the telling and inspiration in the moral.

Above all, the drama must never be pruned to the point of preaching. Teach-

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ing through moral inspiration, yes; preaching, never. That is to be left to the pulpit.

Ten years ago John Galsworthy, than whom nobody is better qualified to speak on such matters, said: "You have in America at the present time several plays that are designed solely to appeal to the seamy, morbid side of human nature, but I believe the demand for such plays will be lessened when we get over this wave of social reform and we all are willing to attack such problems from a saner and more serene standpoint."

And, again:

"I seriously question the motive behind some of our dealing with sexual matters. I believe they are designed solely to give the public what it wants at all costs of truth and decency."

This is more applicable to-day than when first uttered.

Another student of the drama, Granville Barker, has declared "bad drama to be as bad as typhoid fever."

Inexcusably "dirty" plays, then, may well prove a scourge.

In Baltic Lands

By Dr. Alfred L. P. Dennis

THE countries bordering on Russia have had a hard fight for existence and peace. This is a first-hand account of some of their problems.

REVAL was the first and only place where I was shaved by a woman. I gasped as she made her preparations; but she gave me an excellent shave. Reval was also the only place in this long tour of mine where I saw women taking coal off a ship. The fact that they took coal off the ship was not so remarkable as that they were pretty women who wore *silk*, or *near* silk, stockings. The captain had told me of this beforehand; but I did not believe him, in spite of a friendship based on mutual acquaintance.

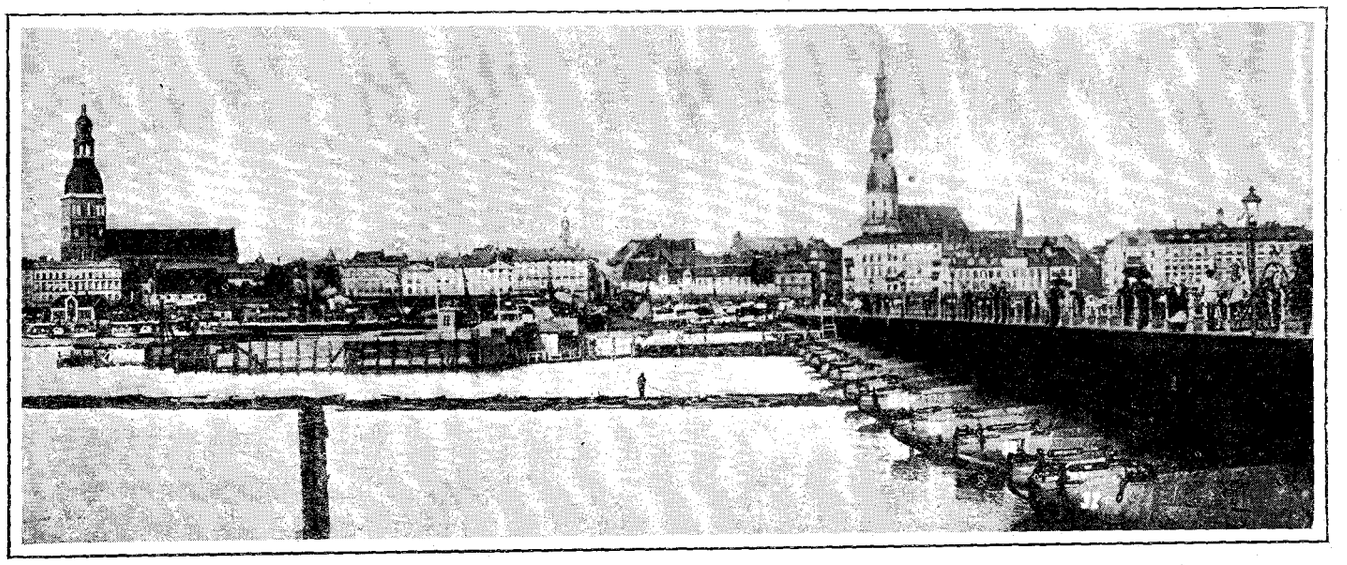
Captain Norton is one of the old "standbys" in the Baltic trade. He was commander of the Borodino in times that were difficult. The tales he told me of Rossyth, of Constantinople, of Scapa Flow, and of Queenstown and of traffic in the Baltic were worth telling; but it would take an artist to tell his tales.

I spent most of my time on the bridge of the Borodino. From there we sighted a dangerous menace to navigation. It was a torpedo mine turned upside down. It stuck out of the sea like a sore thumb. It was probably a Russian mine which had broken loose from its anchorage in Moon Sound. I reported the fact that it was in the fairway of Baltic traffic; but the Estonian navy was indifferent. "These are the chances of war. Perhaps it will sink some Russian ship. We do not have to bother about that."

From the bridge I also saw one of the most beautiful sights I have ever seen. As we came into Reval Harbor the sun was setting. Only forty-five degrees away the dawn was rising! The time was midnight, and the glow lasted until sunset and dawn were a wonderful combination that I shall always remember.

Reval is of course a rather precipitous town. As I wandered about and found the decayed bits of ancient Russian history it was interesting. I found by chance the old "palace"—it is really nothing more than a hovel—where Peter the Great used to live and entertain his sea captains in robust fashion. Across the street there was a melancholy place—a dirty courtyard, a stable, and on a lorry I saw the grandiose statue of Peter the Great. It represented the fall of a dynasty; for the Estonian Government would have none of it. The people had torn it down, for the Romanoffs were finished.

Yet it would be a mistake to think that the Estonian Government is really firmly established. Every one tried to convince me that it is. But I wonder. Reval and Riga, in Latvia, are the two western eyes of Russia. Every Minister acknowledged this, and then asked me what was going to happen. I said that I did not know; but I advised them to study the American Federal Constitution or the arrangement which had been made as to the British Commonwealth of Nations. For both Reval and Riga are essential to Russia. These two cities are the commercial ports through which the western trade of Russia must go. At present such trade is a complete failure. You can make treaties; you can recognize the Soviet Government, either *de*



(C) Keystone

A view of Riga, Russia, one of the principal seaports on the Baltic

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jure or *de facto*. You can do anything that you choose; but the fact is that there is *no* real trade to be had with Russia.

I am not an idle onlooker, but a very sincere student of affairs. On every hand I found the wharfs lying empty, the freight cars empty, the whole traffic with Russia *empty*.

The result is that there has been an active propaganda of the Third Internationale. One hundred and fifty prisoners were gobbled up by the Estonian police in July. Those trials are still to take place. I don't know what is to happen; but I think the Russian Government must understand that it is on its last legs. Certainly I am not a prophet, nor am I a person to anticipate disaster; but I cannot believe that the Soviet régime can exist in its present composition very long. Foreign trade is not essential to Russia; yet in the long run the agricultural machinery, the textiles, and the material of an ordinary life must be necessary. It now depends on the bankers; but I don't believe that they are going to adopt such a terrific gamble.

As far as Estonia is concerned, I imagine that her real financial difficulties are still to begin. The Government made a mistake in thinking that the country could be both an industrial and an agricultural country. Estonia is first of all an agricultural country—the loans and mortgages which now exist on its industrial efficiency are mere paper. So it is quite possible that its financial stability may receive a rude shock.

Latvia, a Country of New Barns

As you go toward Latvia the country changes. As you view the flat, almost stupid country you suddenly realize that there is genuine activity hidden in Latvian farms. The result is that as you examine more closely you discover that Latvia has a real agricultural life. On one of the very rare hills I counted about forty new houses or barns whose heavy shingled roofs stood out in the sunset.

This land was formerly in the hands of the Baltic barons. Now it is divided among the peasants. The result, however, is not entirely happy. The overhead charges are duplicated and reduplicated in such fashion that it is greatly more expensive to manage a series of small farms than to manage one big estate. Co-operative farming seems to be the only way in which the present Latvian agrarian reform can possibly be successful. How soon that can be accomplished remains to be seen.

Certainly Riga, with its curious mixture of Russian and of German life, does not at first give the impression of a life of its own. Then later there comes the understanding that there is a real Lettish life, a civilization for which the extremely efficient Latvian army is quite ready to fight and to die. The old standards of Russian inefficiency still exist more or less; but the new standards of the life of a new state also appear. Latvia intends to exist as an autonomous nationality. The French or the British may privately deny that; but I am sure that any American who has ever been in Latvia would recognize a real pioneer spirit and would sympathize with it.

(C) Keystone

Women who labor in Lithuanian fields

Lithuania, a Black Earth Country

As you come to Lithuania you discover wide, flat plains. The very soil differs from that in Estonia or Latvia. Here is rich black earth. On all sides are evidences of real agricultural wealth. Yet there remains the blight of politics. In particular, there was the question as to whether or not the Memel Convention was to be ratified. It so happened that I was in Kauwas (Kovno) when every journalist inside and outside of Lithuania was prophesying the defeat of its ratification.

Figuratively, I fought, bled, and almost died to secure the ratification of the Memel Convention. It was because Lithuania would receive a terrific "black eye" from an international point of view in case she did not ratify this convention.

I knew what the Poles were counting on, and I knew what the German Nationalists were thinking of in case Lithuania did not ratify the Memel Convention. So I bent my earnest efforts to secure ratification. The convention was ratified three days after I left; but I had been promised that it would be ratified before I left Kauwas.

The facts very briefly: The Lithuanian Government, a majority of three in its Parliament. In case this Memel Convention were ratified, six delegates would be elected. Each of these six delegates would probably belong to the Clerical Party, which is opposed to the present Lithuanian Government. To invite the present Lithuanian Government to commit suicide was a bit difficult; but it was done. What the result may be I do not know.

As far as Lithuania and Latvia are concerned the condition of their forests is of great concern. The Latvian Budget is now balanced by the expenditure of about fourteen per cent of Latvian timber. The official figures are ten per cent; but every one who has been in these Baltic lands must understand that the official figures are to be neglected. The Latvian Foreign Office acknowledges that six per cent of its timber can normally be sold. If therefore both Latvia and Lithuania continue to sell timber at the present rate, they will be balancing their Budget; but they will also be seriously endangering their future prosperity.

Consequently it behooves both these countries to economize in their expenditures. This is particularly true of Lithuania, where drainage is very heavy. If, instead of spending so much on their army and on their Foreign Office expenses, the Lithuanians would put more into permanent works and into the real drainage of Kauwas, it would be better for future Lithuanians.

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What Happened to Sally

By ERNEST W. MANDEVILLE

Here is the tale of a girl who started bootlegging to pay a "debt of honor." The story of Sally is presented as a part of Mr. Mandeville's study of the effect of the Eighteenth Amendment

SALLY is a bootlegger now. She is the college basket-ball type, young, strong, and full of energy. Three years ago she held the place in society for which her eminent family fitted her. From a débutante daughter to a professional booze agent—that's what the loss of the family fortune did for her.

Her mother, who formerly would not allow a drop of liquor in the house, now peddles it out by the bottle to college boys. A tragedy if there ever was one.

I'll tell you Sally's story as she told it to me. I wouldn't ask you to believe the tale of a bootlegger if it were not that I have known Sally and her family for years and know the absolute truthfulness of what she says.

"The collapse of my father's stocks and his death soon after left my mother and me with a badly tangled estate that netted us only about $17,000. We invested it all in a tea-room and set about making our living.

"We worked hard but the business did not show a profit, and before long came bankruptcy. Our money was gone and we had debts of over $4,000. As the tea-room was an incorporated company, we were not personally liable for the debts, but the tradesmen had delivered the goods expecting payment, and I made up my mind to see that they got it.

"My mother was discouraged and failing in health. I had to make a living some way for her and for myself, and I was morally (if not legally) obligated to pay for $4,000 worth of things that I had bought. I heard of an opportunity to make money carrying liquor from Long Island to an up-State town, so I took it. I had an old car that served me until I earned enough to buy a new —— coupé.

"I carry only what I have previous orders for, as I don't want to peddle it around. A drug store up State takes about all that I can carry, so I run mostly to this one town. I load at Long Island on an afternoon, drive through the night, unload my stuff in the morning, sleep through the day, and come back the next night.

"A telephone call to the wholesaler, telling him what I want for the trip, arranges an appointment with his agent. I pick his man up at a stated corner in Jamaica, and he drives with me to the place where that particular booze is stored. Usually we go to a magnificent estate with a large, imposing house situated almost on the water-front. A sluiceway comes right up to one of the windows. Here the small boats come in, and it is a matter of only a few minutes to pass the cases into the house.

"I drive in the garage (built right in the house), and when I drive out I am loaded up with twenty cases of liquor. Of course the bottles are taken from the cases and packed in the baggage compartment in the rear of my car; first a row of bottles, then the straw, and then another row.

"One night I was late in reaching the town where I usually snatch a bite of supper, and the place I patronized was closed. I cruised around a bit, but didn't dare stop at another place, so kept on my way. A few miles farther on one of my tires blew, so I pulled up at a garage to get the spare put on and the other fixed for a good extra tire to go on with.

"'I'll have to get a stronger jack than this to lift the load you have in there,' said the garage man. I knew, of course, that he was on to what I was doing, but most of these garages make their living from the constant stream of bootleggers who pass through.

"I was inside getting warm when I heard a voice outside, 'This is the car we are looking for,' and in came a big stalwart State policeman.

"I hadn't put the extra strong springs on my new car yet, and I suppose they spotted the way the back end of my car sagged while I was cruising about looking for supper. If it hadn't been for the puncture, they'd never have caught up with me though, for they were driving a Ford.

"'Is that your car out there? Well, then, come out and show your licenses. Where is the key to this back end?'

"'Why, I never use that. I don't know where the key is.'

"'All right. If that's the way you feel about it, I'll go inside, call up the Federal agent and search your car.' [State police are not allowed to search without a warrant.]

"The second trooper stood with me at the car. 'Say, have you got a gun?' he said. I hadn't, and said so. 'Gosh, you've got guts to drive through here alone this time of night!'

"My mind was operating double quick all this time, and I figured I'd better come out with it. 'Say,' I said, 'there is no use in his telephoning. I've got booze in there.'

"'Hey, Mac! Come on out! It's all right. She's found the key.'

"They both met my new attitude with friendliness instead of their previous gruffness.

"'What kind of booze have you got there?'

"'Scotch and champagne.'

"'Is it good stuff?'

"'The best that is available in New York at the present time.'

"'Well, that's fine. The stuff that has been coming through here lately hasn't been fit to drink. You say it's good stuff. Let's try it.'

"'All right, but don't disturb that in the back. It's carefully packed. I've got a couple of quarts in my grip in the front. You can sample them, if you like.'

"We all went inside, the garage keeper included, and sat around until the two bottles had been emptied. They voted me a regular kid and an honorary member of the troop. They advised me to pull my car in the garage for the night and not to attempt the road again until daybreak, because of a bad piece of road ahead where the hijackers (liquor pirates) were holding up bootleggers when they had to slow down. The garage man told me that I'd be safe in parking in his garage any night, and that I could take out all that I came with.

"Each trooper took four bottles and bade me God-speed.

"I went on and made my delivery. The druggist's wife came back with me for a few days in New York. As we passed through this same town we stopped at the garage. My friend the garage keeper took us over to his house. His wife rang up the troopers, and they came over for a grand family dinner before we took to the road again. They have been good friends of mine ever since. I see them almost every time I pass through.

"I run to Cleveland, Ohio, occasionally too. Once in a great while I make a trip West to Kansas City or Wyoming. There is good money in it. I pay $48 a case for Scotch now [February], but during the summer I can buy it for $32.

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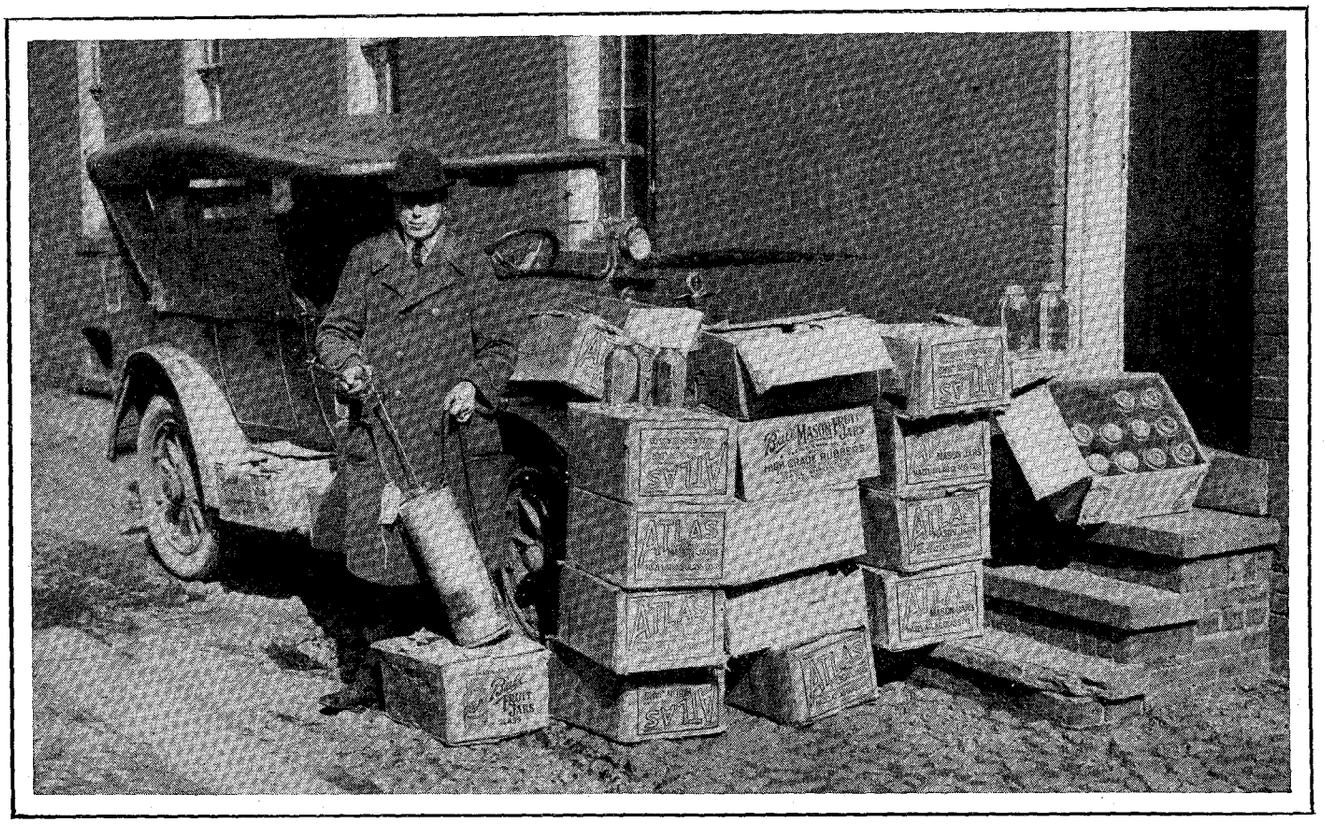

International

This bootleg car, when captured, is said to have contained one hundred and forty-four gallons of liquor. Its load is shown piled up around it

On my New York State run I add $25 a case to what I pay. That gives me $500 gross for the trip. It's worth it too, driving steady for three hundred miles through all sorts of weather, not stopping even for eats sometimes.

"When I go to Ohio I add $50 a case for private deliveries, and in Kansas City and Wyoming I get $125 a case.

"I was stopped at the New York-Pennsylvania line once. They had a dry Mayor in Erie who was tightening up. I told them to go ahead and search, but a quick flash of the searchlight and 'On you go!' was all that happened. Going through Illinois on one trip I was stopped five times, but a little talk and bluff staved off any discovery. They told me that every other car that went through was carrying something. Those are the only times that I've been held up."

"What would you do if you got caught?" I asked.

"Well, the first offense usually means only the confiscation of the car.

"They wanted me to run three hundred thousand forged prescription blanks down to Baltimore, but I wouldn't. That's a more serious offense than running booze.

"I could carry beer and ale on the down trip of my regular run, but it is so heavy, and I don't want the delay or trouble of it. I am running a conservative business and dealing only with people I know and from whom I have advance orders.

"Most of the year it is cheaper to run liquor up State from Long Island than it is to bring it down from Canada. There is a deal of shooting on the border and it's harder and more dangerous to get it through."

"Are there many running booze on the main highways?" I asked.

"In the summer nothing else but," she exclaimed.

"I can make two or three trips a week, and at the same time my retail business is going on at home. We have an apartment near —— [one of the large universities in New York City] and sell by the bottle to the college boys. My mother takes care of that when I am out, and it brings in a steady income.

"They buy synthetic gin mostly. I get it for $13 a case (twelve bottles), and sell it for $2.50 a bottle. It's a good profit, considering there is practically no trouble involved. I call my dealer on the telephone, and within a few hours the cases are in my apartment. I only know his telephone number; don't know who he is or where he's located; but I've been doing business with him satisfactorily for over two years now. Of course I could buy the alcohol, bottles, labels, etc., and make my own gin and increase the profit, but the margin isn't big enough for all the trouble it adds.

"I sell the boys Scotch for $6.50 a bottle, which gives me $78 a case, for which I usually pay considerably under $40. I have a nice class of boys too. We take care of the entire membership of three fraternities, and have many others besides."

"I should think you'd be better off to develop this end of the business and cut out the hazards of the automobile running," I said.

"But the running brings me in lump sums for capital which I need. And I can't develop the retail trade much more than I have. Most of the boys are continually changing bootleggers. They buy for a while, and then want credit. What are you to do? If you refuse them credit, they'll do one of two things—get sore and never come back or come back the next day with the money. If you give them credit, they'll take a quart on credit, pay for that the next time and take two quarts on credit, pyramid it up as high as they think they can get away with, and then you'll never see them or your money again. I suppose they figure that as long as we are in a tricky business they have a perfect right to use tricks in their dealings with us."

"Don't the people in the apartment know about your business?"

"We're on the ground floor, and the boys are quiet. Of course the telephone boys know it, but they buy from me too —at a special discount—and I take care of everybody who does know about it.

"I run gin up State sometimes, too, when some sucker orders it who doesn't know that he can make it himself. I telephone my dealer, naming the number

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of cases I want. He asks me what kind of a car I'm driving, and names a street corner at which he'll meet me. At this spot, in the middle of the day, his car will draw up alongside of mine, and his men will pass the cases from his car into mine.

"The big-money days in bootlegging are over, though. Too much competition and price-cutting now. Some Jews will pool two or three thousand, buy a few second-hand cars, hire some boys who don't care what they do for about $60 a week, cut their liquor three or four times, and slash the price five dollars a case. Then we have to meet their prices, and this cutthroating goes on until you can't compete."

"How do you justify yourself for engaging in this type of business?" I asked her.

"Well, why not?" she replied. "It's a bum law; no one respects it. Judges and politicians break it. How can they expect others not to? I needed the money badly. Here was a way to get it. If I didn't do it, some one else would.

"You ask me what I think of the Eighteenth Amendment? I think it is the worst thing that ever happened to this country; but the bootleggers don't want its repeal. Oh, *no!* It's too good a thing for them!

"There is more drinking than there ever was before, and now they never think of drinking moderately, but always finish the bottle. I think the actions of the young people of to-day are something disgraceful. I'm glad I haven't children of the flapper age. At all the dances boys have it on the hip and the girls are drinking as much as the boys. I don't see why their mothers don't know it when their daughters come home in such a condition that they can't undress themselves.

"Lots of people don't appreciate good liquor nowadays. They didn't know liquor before prohibition, and they are quite satisfied with what they get now. They think that it is right to 'have a head' the morning after, and don't know that it's the quality of the booze."

"Do you have any trouble getting what you need to fill your orders?"

"No; I can always get what I want. Sometimes I may have to take some other brand than the one ordered, but there is always a full variety of liquors available.

"The whole system is rotten with graft. I know a Coast Guard captain who has made a fortune at his job in the last three years. A rum-runner who wants to bring in a large shipment with safety has to approach him. Their dealings go something like this:

"*Runner.* Well, I'm bringing in 500 cases to-night.

"*Captain.* Nothing doing.

"*Runner.* I'll bring in 1,000 cases.

"*Captain.* No.

"*Runner.* Then I'll bring in 2,000 cases.

"The captain gets the quantity up until his split means something worth while. He is given a percentage of the number of cases beached, and his wife sells it for him quite openly on a houseboat that they have moored to the shore.

"I'm going out on the rum fleet as soon as the weather breaks up. I'll take you along if you want to go."

I jumped at the chance, in order to get first-hand information, just as I did when she invited me to make one of her up-State rum-running trips with her.

Sally has paid up her tea-room debts now. At first she went into the business as a matter of "honor" to accomplish this, and, now that she has done it, she sticks to the trade for the fascinating excitement of it.

There are a large number of women employed in the bootleg traffic. Not many of them have the courage of Sally to operate alone, but hundreds are employed by the men runners to sit with them in their cars, as decoys to throw off suspicion.

A short time ago in New York City, one of these decoys, sitting in the car simply as a business proposition, was shot by the bootlegger's jealous wife. The bootlegger hired the woman to sit in his car in front of the Pennsylvania Station while he delivered booze to the Pullman porters.

Next week I will continue the narrative of my own discoveries around the country.

America

By FULLERTON WALDO

THE little Hungarian clothing doctor has a cave in the wall over the way, and a young stock broker one red-letter day devised him a sign:

MICHAEL REPSCIK
PROFESSOR OF STITCHOLOGY
BAGITIS CURED

He is proud of that sign, and in the sodden aroma of blue suits, brown suits, gray suits, suits variously striped and peppered-and-salted, that hang from the rack overhead like banana fronds he is glad that he is alive and that he is an all-wool-and-a-yard-wide American, though he cannot truthfully sing that it is the land where his fathers dyed.

His idea of bliss on a holiday is to sleep till eight instead of six. But, as Dr. Eliot, of Harvard, has advised all men, he finds his pleasure in his work. Even as he talks to you his conversation has a thread in it, which he moistens and twirls like the end of a waxed mustache for the needle's eye.

As the sizzling iron plies up and down on the pressing-block he points the contrast between Hungary half a century ago and America to-day. For America has been to him the land, not simply of promise, but of performance.

"My mother worked upon the land," he said. "Sometimes she helped to draw the plow with animals. My father was a bricklayer. From the top of a four-story wall he fell, and he was killed; and some of the dreams I had as a child died with him."

He reached for a box of suspender buttons, and ransacked with his finger till he found the desirable specimen.

"When I was eight, I left school. In the school, when it was summer, we had picnics, with cakes and bacon and plenty of water; and the dog went too, and I tied paper round his neck for a napkin. We danced and sang, and even the dog was merry. But after my father died it was only work, from five in the morning until eight or ten at night. After work I would chop wood with the ax. And the dog was hungry; by and by he died.

"Then I went fifty miles by train to Kaschau. I was ten years old. The master-tailor gave me a needle the first day, and on the second a machine. Because I was not fast enough, he beat me. He sent me for more needles, telling me to buy two for a cent. I could get but one for a cent. When I came back, again he beat me, with the wire frame of an umbrella.

"In those days even the great ladies beat their servants and pulled them by the hair. It was like slavery before Lincoln."

Then a customer breezed in for a new overcoat lining, and another came to

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This is Marie Antoinette *riding to her death*

DO YOU KNOW her tragic story? How the once beautiful queen of France, broken and humbled, her beauty gone, was jostled through the bloody streets of Paris to the guillotine? Have you ever read what Edmund Burke wrote about the French Revolution—one of the great, fascinating books that have made their mark on history?

Out of all the millions of books in the world there are a few, and only a few, so great that they will never die. These are the books that every intelligent person *must* know.

But what are these few immortal works? Where are they? How can a busy man or woman find them among so much that is worthless?

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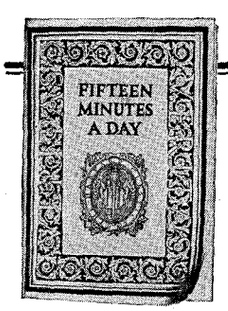

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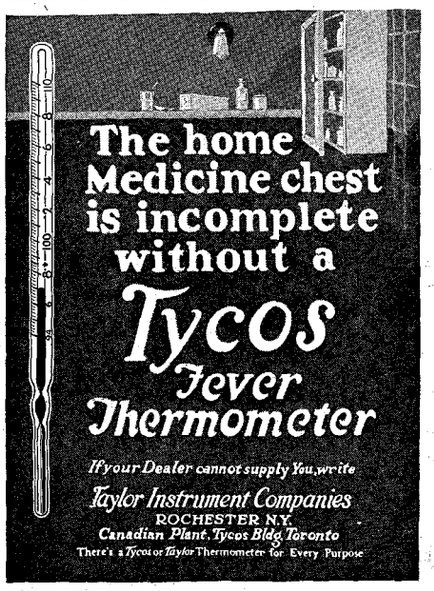
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have his trousers creased while waiting, with a newspaper across his knees. The little doctor fetched a hot iron from the stove, and put the cold one in its place, and resumed his halting palaver.

"The boss, he was religious. Crazy religious. It did not make him stop to beat me, but it made me go to church.

"When I was a young man, after many weary years, I heard about America. I was twenty-one, and had saved a little money. So I sailed by the North German Lloyd from Bremen—very rough, eleven days. But I was not seasick till I got on land. And now—I have been here thirty-seven years in this one place, the clothing doctor."

His toil-worn hand pushed the mop of his gray hair back from his flushed and beaded forehead.

"I'm not one of these laziness fellows. I like work. I betcha maybe I'm about the hardest-working fellow of a good many. Others—they have their own way; it is not my way.

"Sometimes, to show the girls what they call a good time, they must have motor cars and jewelry. And so they steal. Me—I'm different. I go home to the wife and children. I want only to make my money the right and honest way.

"When I go home, the children they make music for me—piano, violin, Victrola, radio. They go to school. A boy, twelve; two girls, ten and eight. They do well at the books. They make me a great happiness.

"Will I have my boy learn the tailor business? No, not at all. Never. Not on your life!"

The iron banged on the pressing-block.

"Nothing but hustling. I do not want my boy to work the way I worked since I was little.

"Do you see that old man over there?"

He pointed through the dusty yellow pane to the farther sidewalk, where a bent patriarch like Father Time, minus the scythe, crept by. The old man seemed still to carry an unseen burden on his back.

"That old man there, he must be eighty. Still you see him go every day to clean signs, with a ladder on his back. I do not want my boy to be like him.

"No, my boy, he will go on from me—he will go where I never could go, and where I shall never see him. For I was born in Hungary; and he—he is not just my child, he is America's child too." Then the bent figure straightened and the grizzled head was thrown back with a sudden flashing exultation in the faded eyes. "He is America! I am an American. I am a Republican, and I voted for Coolidge.

"No, my boy he will never be a tailor.

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I cannot say what he will be. I will not tell him what he shall do. He is to find out what he wants. But even now he paints and builds—he likes to make things out of wood with tools, and I look on him and I am glad.

"Maybe—perhaps—he will be an architect." The words held accents of pathos and of yearning, yet of aspiration. "If he likes it, sure I want him to be an architect."

I thought I could see the word spelled out in capital letters of gold across the dusty window where his father squatted with a needle in his hand and a coat across his knee.

Contributors' Gallery

FRANCIS WILSON was born in Philadelphia in 1854. After a premier appearance in a minstrel company, he engaged in legitimate comedy at the Chestnut Street Theater in Philadelphia in 1877, which marked the beginning of a long and successful career as an actor. In 1889 he organized his own company, in which he took the leading comedy rôles. He has played in "Cyrano de Bergerac," "The Toreador," "The Bachelor's Baby," "Erminie," "The Rivals," and "The School for Scandal." Mr. Wilson is the author of "The Eugene Field I Knew," "Recollections of a Player," and "Joseph Jefferson." His Autobiography has recently been published by Houghton Mifflin Company. He sent us from Florida his article on "Keeping the Stage Clean" in response to our telegraphic request.

DR. ALFRED L. P. DENNIS, after six months abroad on a trip through eastern Europe, has returned to Clark University, in Worcester, Massachusetts, where he is Professor of History and International Relations. Dr. Dennis previously taught at Bowdoin College, Harvard University, and the Universities of Chicago and Wisconsin. During the war he was captain of the Military Intelligence Division, General Staff, and was assistant military attaché at the American Embassy in London. He reported to the Paris Peace Conference in 1919.

FULLERTON WALDO, whose story of the little Hungarian tailor is published in this issue, is keenly interested in the foreigners within our gates. Two years ago he crossed and recrossed the Atlantic in the steerage of a great liner, mingling with the aliens as they journeyed to and from America. His account of his experiences and of the people he came to know were told for Outlook readers during January of last year.

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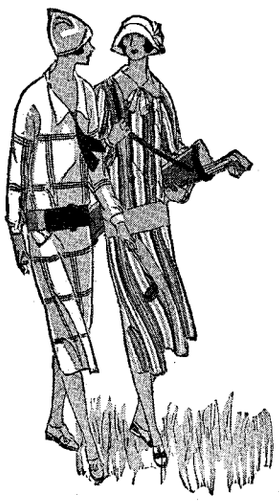

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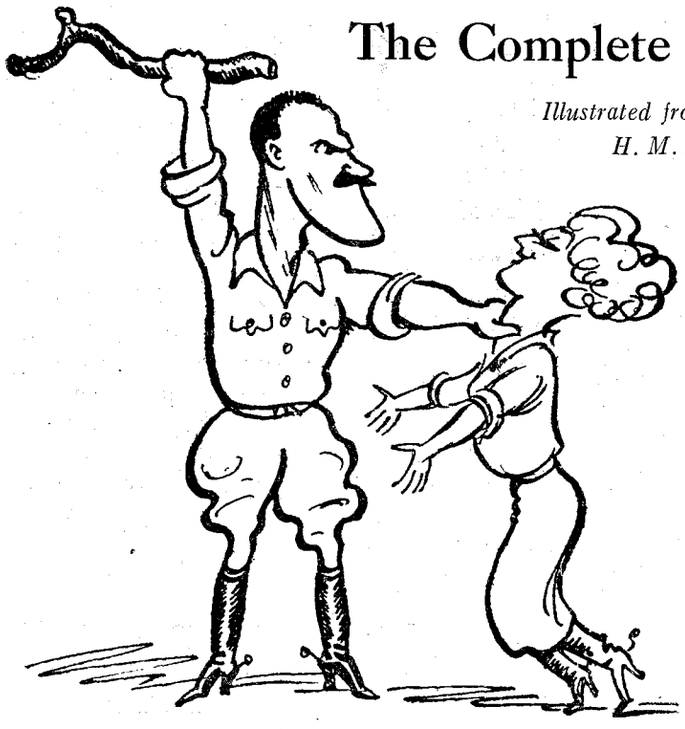
The Book Table

Edited by EDMUND LESTER PEARSON

The Complete Limerick Book



Illustrated from drawings by H. M. Bateman

THIS is a book[1] of great merits and one grave fault. It is a gay, bright-yellow volume, suitably illustrated by one of the best humorous artists in England. The pages have wide margins, on which the owner may enter additional verses in manuscript. Mr. Reed has written an interesting history of the limerick, and divided his collection into sixteen chapters, giving examples of the limericks of Edward Lear (the pioneer, not the inventor); of Rossetti (all bad); of limericks written by clerics; by famous authors; of topical limericks; of candidates for the title of the "best limerick;" and so on. One chapter is devoted to the "stock exchange variety," or what might be called the smoking-room or barroom limerick. These are merely mild approaches to that prevalent but never printed limerick which is ribald, Rabelaisian, or risky—sometimes all three at once. The frequency of this species proves that there is something in the form of verse which lends itself to the kind of anecdote which is more ludicrous than polite. Indeed, three authors, including Mr. Bernard Shaw and Mr. Arnold Bennett, wrote to the compiler of this book that the best limericks were quite unprintable—a statement which recalls Mr. Kipling's reference to "the tales of the world, the thirty-nine which cannot be told to ladies and the one that can." This is not quite true about limericks; there are some excellent ones which are perfectly printable, and Mr. Reed has put most of them in his book. But he has also included, I am sorry to say, among his 350 at least 150 which are so tame, flat, and unprofitable that his book would have been better if they had been omitted altogether.

Limericks, writes Mr. Reed, were written at least as long ago as 1820. The nursery rhyme, "Hickory, dickory, dock," is practically a limerick. The name may have come from an old convivial song which used to be sung in Ireland a century ago; each person composed an impromptu verse, and the whole company joined in the chorus, beginning, "Will you come up to Limerick?" Then Edward Lear in his "Book of Nonsense," published in 1846, included the great mass of geographical limericks which he had written in the 1830's. As Mr. Reed correctly says, Lear's are not usually of the best, because he repeats his rhyme, and often his whole first line, in the last line of the stanza.

Mr. Reed tells something of the great limerick boom in England in 1907–8. This extraordinary craze, which multiplied the semi-annual sale of sixpenny postal orders by fourteen, and resulted in a dreadful mass of fatuous verse-making, is a curious chapter in the history of human silliness. In fact, this part of Mr. Reed's book makes his denunciation, on another page, of the "sentimental sloppiness" of the American press a clear instance of the pot calling the kettle black. (An American magazine is now conducting a limerick contest, with the usual production of verses, all of which sound like the efforts of feeble-minded infants. Englishmen and Americans would do well to cease "slanging" one another on this score. There is a fair share of idiotic journalism on both sides of the ocean.)

"The Complete Limerick Book" contains contributions from Dean Inge and Father Ronald Knox, from Sir Gilbert Parker and Mr. Arnold Bennett (whose completed offering seems to prove his contention, previously mentioned), from Rudyard Kipling, with one said to be by Stevenson. There are also many anonymous ones sent in by eminent persons. The faults of the book, to which I have referred, are the inclusion of so many limericks, mediocre or worse, and a number of minor errors. For example, the author attributes—perhaps correctly, although it is news to me—to Oliver Wendell Holmes the old and admirable limerick about a former editor of this paper when it was called The Christian Union. This is possibly the best punning limerick ever made, but Mr. Reed almost spoils it by misquotation, as he gives away the name of the hero in the first line. A better version is:

Said a great Congregational preacher:
"Oh, hen, you're a wonderful creature!"
To pay him for that
She laid an egg in his hat,—
And thus did the hen reward Beecher.

He attributes to "H. Woodrow Wilson" (it would have been permissible to drop that H.!) the limerick which the late President was fond of quoting, but of course never claimed as his own, beginning, "As a beauty I am not a star."[2] He does not in this book commit the two mistakes which he perpetrated in his article in the "International Book Review"—referring to Dixon Merritt, of The Outlook (author of the famous and popular Pelican limerick), as the "late" Dixon Merritt, and deploring the *poor* quality of one of the best of all, W. S. Gilbert's, in "blank verse," beginning "There was an old man of St. Bees."

These faults are atoned for by serious limericks, by devout limericks (a "Modernist prayer" by Father Ronald Knox), and by some—like the one about the two young ladies of Birmingham—which have two versions, the discreet and the indiscreet. There are limericks in French

[1] The Complete Limerick Book. The Origin, History, and Achievements of the Limerick, with About 350 Selected Examples. By Langford Reed. Illustrated by H. M. Bateman. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York. $2.

[2] He hopes to correct this in the American edition, soon to appear. The author of the verse is Anthony Euwer.

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by George du Maurier, and even translations of English limericks into Latin and Greek. They are fond in England of jokes upon the curate. Hence this one by E. V. Knox:

There was a young curate of Hants,
Who suddenly took off his pants.
When asked why he did,
He replied, "To get rid
Of this regular army of ants!"

Here is an anonymous one, which Mr. Reed has slightly Bowdlerized:

There was a young lady of Tottenham,
Her manners—she'd wholly forgotten 'em;
While at tea, at the Vicar's,
She took off her mittens,
Explaining she felt much too hot in 'em!

It was one of this variety, perhaps, which caused the Rev. Charles Inge to write:

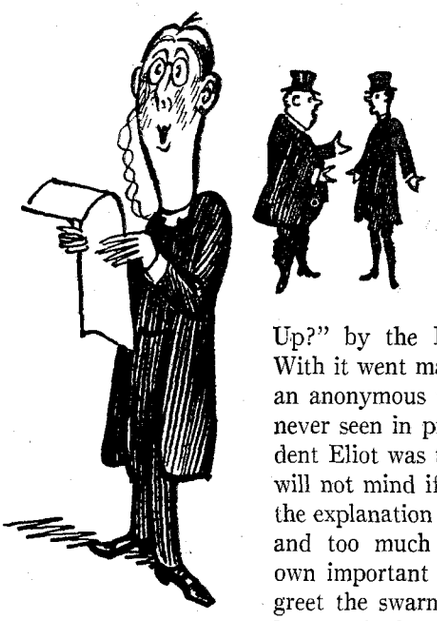
Your verses, dear Fred, I surmise,
Were not meant for clerical eyes.
The Bishop and Dean
Cannot think what they mean,
And the curate turns pink with surprise.

The author prints some of his own, written in criticism of popular British authors. One of the best, about Ethel M. Dell, is:

A strong silent man on a ranch
Thrashed a beautiful girl with a branch.
Cried she, "You are hellish!
But deliciously Dellish,
So take my affection, carte-blanche!"

The book ends with an odd and useful feature: an index to the limericks, by the "key-word" of each.

In addition to these comments on Mr. Reed's book, I will venture upon a few observations of my own on the subject. The limerick is worthy of respect; Brander Matthews in his "Study of Versification" says: "The limerick has the distinction of being the only fixed form which is actually indigenous to English." All other verse forms came from foreign lands. "The limerick alone seems to have been born where the English tongue is spoken."



Limerick and "nonsense verse" are not interchangeable terms. There are some limericks which are humorous, but are not nonsense verses at all. Witness, one of the best from the view-point of construction:

There was a young lady named Maud,
And she was a terrible fraud.
To eat at the table
She never was able;
But out in the pantry—Oh, Lord!

This characterization of Maud is entirely possible, and it is described without the use of nonsense words. But Lear's limericks are ofttimes nonsense verses as well, either through the improbability of the incident (as the old man with the beard, whose whiskers were made the nesting-place of so many fowls of the air) or by the employment of nonsense words in a manner only achieved by Lear himself, or by Lewis Carroll in such non-limerick poems as "Jabberwocky." (Carroll does not seem to have written limericks.) Lear's best, perhaps, in this class is:

There was an old person of Ware
Who rode on the back of a bear;
When they said "Does it trot?"
He said "Certainly not!
It's a Moopsikon Floppsikon bear."

The anonymous limerick,

There was a young lady from Lynn
Who was so excessively thin
That when she essayed
To drink lemonade
She slipped through the straw and fell in,

is, of course, a nonsense verse as well as a limerick, unless you are prepared to admit that the incident might have happened. This, by the way, used to be sung to the tune of "Will You Come Up?" by the Harvard Glee Club. With it went many others, including an anonymous verse (which I have never seen in print) of which President Eliot was the hero. I think he will not mind if I quote it, and add the explanation that he was too busy and too much concerned with his own important affairs to be able to greet the swarms of students whom he met in his daily walks through the Yard and in Harvard Square:

As Prexy once walked through the Square,
He met a large mob standing there;
He carefully bowed
To each man in the crowd,
And—the dead were piled high in the air!

I cannot remember many—of the permissible variety—which Mr. Reed has omitted from his amusing book. But no earnest investigator of this subject should neglect Professor Robert Palfrey Utter's illuminating study of "Lear's Characters," which, I am glad to say, has been preserved in his admirable book, "Pearls and Pepper." It is a careful consideration of the peculiarities of "They," who are always asking so many depressing questions of the heroes and heroines of Lear's limericks. And I always recall the pathos of this, which I think came out in "St. Nicholas" (with other good limericks) years ago:

There once was an old kangaroo
Who painted his children sky-blue;
His wife said, "My dear!
Don't you think they look queer?"
And he said, "I don't know but they do!"

Although it has Lear's weakness of lack of a new rhyme in the last line, there is some point to the one about the metaphysician of Boston:

A metaphysician of Boston
The seas of uncertainty tossed on;
As whether 'twere best
To be rich in the West,
Or poor and peculiar in Boston.

E. L. P.

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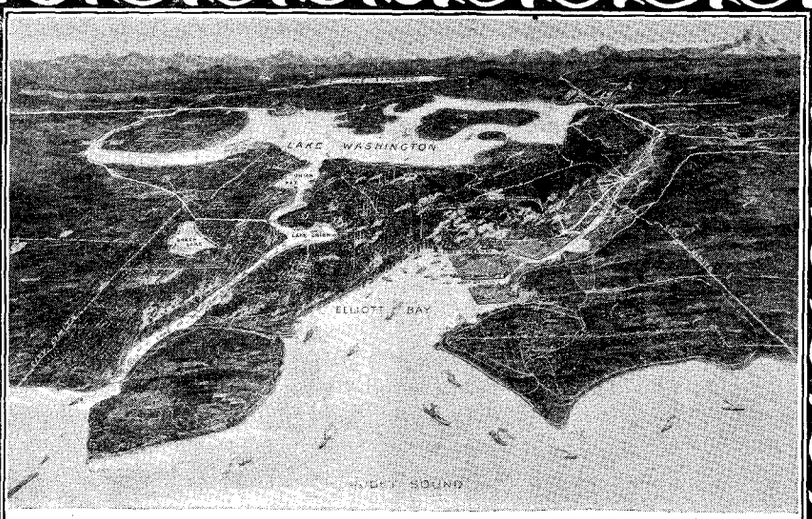

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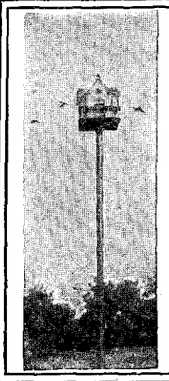

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The New Books

FICTION

BACKFURROW. By G. D. Eaton. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York. $2.

Farm life in mid-Michigan can't possibly be all sordid, hateful, coarse, lustful, sickening. This story needs to balance it a counterpiece of honesty, decency, industrial efficiency. It also needs to have some animalistic passages made less offensive, not for the sake of morality (reviewers, it is said, must hold no brief for that ancient dame), but for the sake of social decency. Granted that the author has a right to look at only one side of country life if he so choose, it must be admitted that he has made a good job of his misery chronicle. It is realistic to the limit; you see and suffer with these people.

REAMER LOU. By Louis Forgione. E. P. Dutton & Co., New York. $2.

The reamer is the steel worker who makes the holes for the red-hot rivets; he begins the work the riveter finishes. Lou is intensely masculine, an American of Italian descent, ready for a fight every minute, capable of genuine love, a rough man leading a rough life. His story is a clearly drawn portrait of the type of hand-laborer who is intelligent and brave but with no moral balance or social background. The book is notable for its vividness and truth.

PORTUGUESE SILVER. By Charles Neville Buck. The Century Company, New York. $2.

A tale of mystery, crime, detection, and (in this case not least nor last) love. The Cape Cod coast is the scene; Italians as well as Americans are involved; the puzzle over the criminal's identity is well kept up. Mr. Buck is a capable practitioner in this division of the art of fiction.

TONGUES OF FIRE. By Algernon Blackwood. E. P. Dutton & Co., New York. $2.

Mystery, the edge of the unknown, the supernatural, afford Mr. Blackwood a field for the construction of the score of short stories in this volume. The two best are the first two: "Tongues of Fire," the title-giving tale, and "The Pikestaffe Case," an excellently creepy achievement and by far the most striking in the collection. Some of the others are indeed so far inferior as to suggest a suspicion that they have been included only to bring the book to the requisite number of pages.

TUMBLEBERRY & CHICK. By William J. Hopkins. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston. $2.

Leisurely, pleasant, and humorous is the calm current of this almost plotless story upon which the reader drifts willingly, smiling often and never bored. The two love affairs are mild; the death of a leading character is not tragic, and but faintly pathetic; events count for lit-

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tle; but there are no people in the little port one is not glad to have met, more especially to have sat on the stringpiece of the old wharf fishing with the lean and long and lazy Mr. Tumbleberry, and to have lingered in Clarissa's kitchen doing chores with the amiable and apoplectic Mr. Chick.

THE INDIVIDUALIST. By Philip Gibbs. Edward J. Clode, New York. $2.

An early story by the famous war correspondent and after-the-war novelist. It will not add to his fame; it will not entertain readers greatly; it is perfectly inoffensive; why republish it?

TRAVEL AND DESCRIPTION

BIRD ISLANDS OF PERU. By Robert Cushman Murphy. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York. $5.

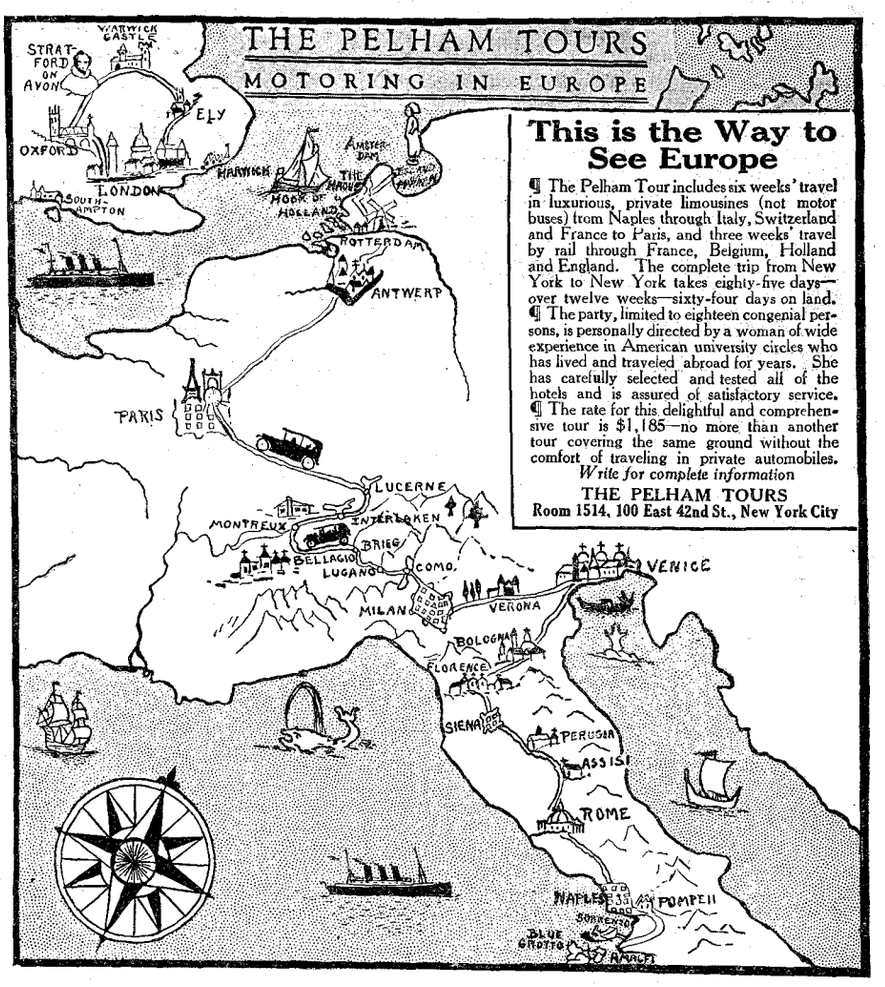
One of the most remarkable and mysterious of oceanic streams, the Humboldt Current, flows from the Antarctic northward along the Pacific coast of South America. It reaches the westernmost projection of the continent at Point Parina, then sets west-northwestward and flows on both sides of the Galápagos Islands. Feeding on the vast abundance of marine organisms flourishing in the current along the Peruvian coast are huge flocks of birds, producers of guano—pelicans, boobies, and, most important, the Peruvian cormorant or guanay. Guano is a fertilizer more easily absorbed by plants from the soil to which it is applied than any fertilizer synthetically compounded, and is more than thirty-three times as effective as the farmyard product. Dr. Murphy presents the guanay as the king among avian benefactors, apart from every æsthetic or traditional consideration. Guano was first introduced to the foreign markets in 1843, with the usual result. By the end of the nineteenth century the deposits were approaching exhaustion and the birds themselves driven away or wantonly slaughtered. A drastic rehabilitation of the guano traffic has taken place in the past fifteen years.

The book belongs to the same series as William Beebe's "Galápagos: World's End," and no higher compliment can be paid it than to say that it is equal in every way to its predecessor in scientific interest, and not far behind it in point of literary flavor. Apart from the guano industry, which at its best could never be called a savory subject, there are many matters dealt with which are of more interest to the general reader.

MISCELLANEOUS

WHEN THE COURT TAKES A RECESS. By William McAdoo. E. P. Dutton & Co., New York. $2.

New York City's chief city magistrate talks on drug addicts, the sale of pistols as a National danger, the censorship of plays, and other subjects.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The Financial Department is prepared to furnish information regarding standard investment securities, but cannot undertake to *advise* the purchase of any specific security. It will give to inquirers facts of record or information resulting from expert investigation, and a nominal charge of one dollar per inquiry will be made for this special service. The Financial Editor regrets that he cannot undertake the discussion of more than five issues of stocks or bonds in reply to any one inquirer. All letters should be addressed to THE OUTLOOK FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT, 381 Fourth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

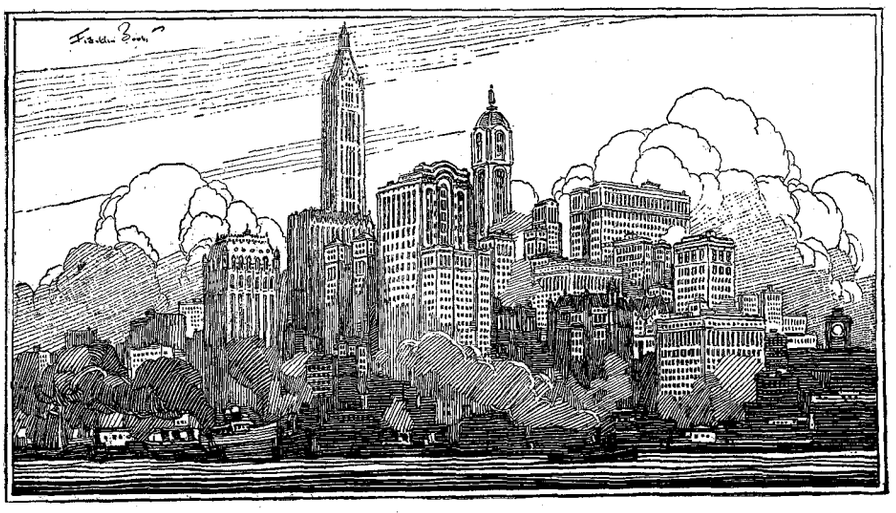
Wills

By WILLIAM LEAVITT STODDARD

THERE are two or three popular notions about wills which have a good deal to do with the failure of many people to make their wills, and thus control the disposition of their property after death. One of these notions is pure superstition—to wit, that if you make your will you are likely to die soon thereafter. While there are undoubtedly many instances of persons who have died shortly after signing their wills, and while one reason for this is that a large number of wills are tardily made on the death-bed, it can be safely asserted that this superstition is nothing but the purest nonsense.

Will making as a cause of death is unrecognized either in law, medicine, or fact. Coincidence alone can explain the apparent exception to this statement.

Another erroneous idea about wills is that, once made, they



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are unalterable. Till the maker dies his will is revocable at his own choice at any time. He may revoke it by destroying it physically—by tearing it or burning it up. He may revoke it by drawing another will. If the testator—the maker of a will—marries after executing his will, this act automatically cancels it. As a matter of practice, it is the custom of many a shrewd man of means to look over his will once a year or so to see if he desires to make any changes in it. There is nothing irrevocable or unalterable about a will till death affixes the final seal.

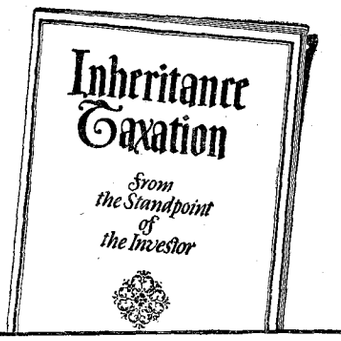
The impression has been conveyed both by fiction and by occasional narratives in the daily newspapers that to make a will is to invite a family fight, and often to invite its breaking after death. Beyond question relatives contest wills and beyond question wills are broken. But such instances are both few in number and in exceedingly small proportion to the total number of wills that are, as the legal phrase goes, allowed or proved in the probate courts of the world.

The usual reason for setting aside a will is that it is improperly executed—that is, that it contains some technical legal defect as to witnesses, or because it is ambiguous in language. If a normal sane man employs a competent lawyer to draft his will, there is every possibility that it will stand and be carried out to the letter.

The best argument that can be advanced against making a will is that the laws of descent and distribution will be carried out and that the estate will be protected by administration under the probate court. In other words, if you leave no will, the statutes provide what shall happen to your property, and the statutes may or may not carry out your wishes. If you leave a will, you yourself determine. Before concluding whether or not to make a will, it is advisable to find out what the law of your States is and whether what is called "intestate" distribution—*i. e.*, distribution as the law directs in cases where there is no will—is what you desire or not.

If, furthermore, you leave no will, the probate court will appoint some one to administer your estate. If you leave a will, you can make that appointment yourself, and it will probably be either a lawyer who is skilled in work of this kind or a bank or trust company. If, lastly, it is of any comfort to you to feel that you have taken every possible precaution about your property, you should certainly make a will, and make it forthwith. Whether your property is large or small, makes little difference.

In general, to make a will is the right



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SIMPLY by selecting securities according to a knowledge of the tax laws, it is shown in this booklet how an estate of moderate size is saved $2,000 in estate and inheritance taxes.

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Among the salient topics with which this book deals, in text that is non-technical and easy to understand, are—

A discussion of Federal Estate taxes.

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The question of "multiple taxation" as applied to the securities of companies operating in several states.

The status, from an Inheritance tax standpoint, of various types of bonds, stocks, and other forms of investments.

The importance of an analysis of security holdings to fit them to the tax situation of the owner.

We shall welcome the opportunity to place this booklet in the hands of any one to whom it may be useful.

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and businesslike thing to do. It is not at all a difficult thing to do. With the assistance of an attorney, and by the payment of a moderate fee, whose size depends on circumstances, you can make your will, designate your executor, and feel that the individuals whom you name will get what you have set aside for them. In your will you do not have to describe your property in detail unless you wish, or unless you leave specific parts of it to your beneficiaries. No one need know anything more about your private affairs after you have drawn it than before, except of course the attorney who drafts it and who is forbidden by the ethics of his profession from revealing the confidence.

"Wherever possible," writes J. E. Perry in an interesting booklet issued by one of the larger trust companies, "the courts try to carry out the intent of the person who makes a will—usually called the testator—and a great many cases have been decided which qualify or make exceptions to the general rules governing the making of wills. If a person has worked a lifetime accumulating or safeguarding his possessions, it is to be assumed that he will obtain proper counsel to assist in preparing what may well prove to be the most important document of a lifetime."

Thrift and sound investment lie at the basis of every family estate, whether large or small. Eternal watchfulness, constant checking up and inquiry through reliable sources, competent decisions, are necessary to maintain property during the life of the owner. In the same way, it seems the acme of carelessness, the direct opposite of thrift and wisdom, to fail to direct the ultimate distribution of property after death by means of a will.

I have in mind a young professional man whose case may or may not be typical. Now about forty years of age, he is earning in the neighborhood of $5,000 a year. He is raising a family of three children, purchasing a suburban home through the co-operative bank, and saving in addition $500 a year. He carries $15,000 worth of life insurance. Till recently he had not made his will, but now he has fulfilled that duty, and his reasons, interesting, I think, to many others, can be set forth in his own language about as follows:

"I hadn't made a will because I thought I hadn't anything to leave. Then I suddenly woke up to the fact that, while I hadn't much money, I had some, and that I had some people to consider who would need every nickel I could leave. In other words, I had obligations which I must provide for. So I

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went to a lawyer and got him to draft my will. I thought at first of leaving my insurance in my will, to have my executor handle that together with the rest of my property. But the lawyer told me that to do this would be to invite unnecessary inheritance taxes, so I made a trust of my insurance—$15,000—with my bank as trustee as well as executor of my estate.

"When I came to count up what I had there was, including insurance and equity in my house and a few securities, about $30,000. And I hadn't made any provision for conserving it because I thought I wouldn't leave anything worth conserving!"

This young man has learned a lesson which, sooner or later, each of us should learn, namely, that the less you possess, the greater should be your care in watching it.

By way of pointing up what I have said and to illustrate some of the complexities that are involved in the apparently simple matter of a will, let me quote some questions and answers which were made the subject of a discussion at a recent meeting of bank employees in Boston:

Q. Who can make a will in this State?

A. Any person of full age and sound mind.

Q. What rights, if any, has a husband or wife against an adverse will?

A. Either husband or wife may waive a will provided the waiver is filed within six months from the date of probate of the will. If waiver is filed, the surviving spouse takes what he or she would have taken if the deceased had died intestate, except that if the amount to be taken is over $10,000 the survivor gets the income of the amount in excess of $10,000 for life and except, further, that if the deceased leave no kindred the survivor takes only the share that he or she would have taken if the deceased had left kindred but no issue.

This simply means that if the deceased leave kindred—*i. e.*, blood relatives—but no issue (children) the surviving spouse takes $5,000 outright and half of the remaining personal and half of the remaining real property. All the balance of the property goes to the next of kin. If the estate left by the testator is less than $5,000, the surviving spouse gets the whole.

Q. Can a child or children be disinherited by a will?

A. Yes, provided the child or children have either (1) been provided for during the life of the testator, or (2) it is clearly shown that the children were not omitted from the will by accident or mistake. The omission by

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a testator of a grandchild whose parent predeceased the testator has been held to come within the provisions of the law, and it seems that if the grandchild appears to have been omitted by accident or mistake, and the parent of such grandchild has predeceased the testator, the grandchild omitted may, under the laws, claim the distributive interest.

Q. What are the usual reasons for which wills are set aside?

A. Wills are usually set aside because of improper execution, lack of statutory number of witnesses, or extreme ambiguity, particularly when the ambiguity affects or distorts the declared intention of the testator. Mental incompetence serving to render the testator incapable of realizing the extent of his property and his appreciation of those dependent upon him is frequently the cause for setting aside a will. The evidence, however, must be clear and satisfactory to the court. The mere fact of slight mental aberration or a temporary surrender of mind, or the fact that the testator was under conservatorship, is not sufficient in themselves to set aside a will.

Q. What if a will were attested the day after it was signed?

A. The testation is perfectly valid. If the attestation is made after the testator has signed it is perfectly right, but if made before the will is not valid.

Q. What if the witnesses sign separately?

A. The fact the witnesses of the will signed separately and not in the presence of each other does not invalidate the will. They must, however, sign in the presence of the testator and must sign after the testator has signed.

Q. What if a clause in the will is crossed out?

A. If a clause in the will is crossed out and there is no explanation showing that the alteration was made before the execution, such clause will be regarded and will be read into the will. Conversely, if the alterations are explained and clearly indicate that the testator intended to alter the provisions and had altered them before execution of the will, they will be valid.

Q. What is the effect of having a legatee act as witness?

A. If a legatee acts as witness, the legacy is void. By the ancient rule of the common law, if the legatee were a witness the entire will was void, but the harshness of such a rule was softened by statute.

Q. Where should a will be kept.

A. A will should be kept in a safe place subject to order of the testator

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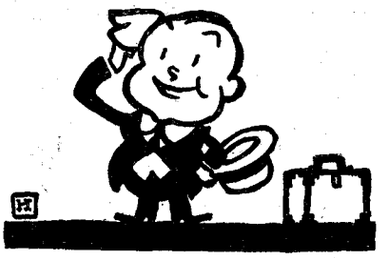

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during his life, and after his death subject to the executor named therein. Wills may be filed in the probate court in the county in which the testator lives for the sum of $1. All arrangements may be made with a lawyer, bank, or trust company and the will is subject to the order of the testator or to that of his executor.

Q. How may a will be revoked?

A. A will may be revoked by burning, tearing, canceling, or obliterating with the intention of revoking it or by republication—*i. e.*, drawing an entirely new will expressly revoking the former will—or by marriage of the testator after the execution of the will. It should be borne in mind that revocation of the will by a subsequent instrument requires that the same statutory requirements be met in the second instrument as in the original will—*i. e.*, execution by the testator in the presence of three or more witnesses.

Q. What is the effect of a later will?

A. The effect of a will executed subsequent to the prior will depends entirely upon the intention of the testator. If the prior will is not expressly revoked, the wills must be proved together as a will of the testator, and if the provisions conflict the most recent will is chosen on the theory that the evidence is the most recent intention of the testator.

Q. Is it easy to break a will?

A. It is very difficult to break a will. A very small percentage of wills are actually broken.

From Inquiring Readers

THE investment trust, to which reference was made at length in an article some weeks ago in this department, is one of the most important investment developments in this country. It will succeed because it is soundly conceived and because it performs a useful function. These remarks are general and do not apply to each and every investment trust—only to the idea.

"PLEASE don't print this," several readers enjoin us. Of course we obey. But for the benefit of those who may hesitate to inquire lest their personal affairs, even anonymously, get into type, we will say this: While the questions are genuine and the answers as genuine as we can make them, we use a certain poetic license in disguising the inquirers, so that it will take exceedingly sharp, not to say, miraculous powers of divination for an inquisitive neighbor or relative to put two and two together and identify the inquirer. This business of giving information on investments is, and should be, both delicate and confidential. We intend to keep it so.

WHILE we welcome inquiries of all kinds at all times, it may save some readers one dollar and one two-cent postage stamp to read this answer to a gentleman in Pennsylvania who wants our advice as to the investment of $4,000.

"We do not ordinarily suggest or advise as to investments, preferring to assist our readers to make their own decisions after examining all the facts they can secure. You will find in the advertising columns of The Outlook the advertisements of houses which we have every reason to consider reliable, and we would suggest that you write direct to them, telling them what you have in mind and asking for what they have to offer, literature about their securities, ratings, and so forth.

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The Grandmother of Shiny Shoes

By Bill Adams

Al was a pearl diver. He worked at Dad Moley's little lunch-counter in a smelly fruit town. Maybe you don't know how fruit towns smell? It's a musty, dusty, sunny pollen smell; except in the central valley orange towns, where it's a queer, fruit-rindy, oily, and warm, suffocating smell. If you work in a packing-house basement, the oil gas that puts the golden color in the green-picked fruit makes your eyes run. Beyond the advertisements and market prices, very little of the fruit world's queerness ever gets into print.

Al was a little chap with a clean pink face and fine bright eyes; too good a lad to be pearl diving, I used to think. Pearl divers are apt to be old have-beens; aged, wobbly men whom drink has broken down. Often they sit playing poker all through the night. Often they go to catfish holes and sit, humped and voiceless, dull as old logs that rot half submerged. They have watery eyes, and chew tobacco constantly. But when a fellow's broke, they'll often help him out, shoving before him a hot hamburger sandwich, saying, "Every one's li'ble ter be hungry some time. Go to it."

Pearl diving is washing dishes. You know that.

Icie Gordon was packing oranges down at the old Hillside packing-house. Icie was Al's girl. A queer name for a girl? California girls beat all the world for funny names. Icie was as dark as Al was blond, and a nice, quiet little kid. She followed the fruit—from down in the Imperial Valley, where very few girls work and the boys have it all their own way; up into the orange country; and on into the peaches, apricots, and grapes; then on to Yakima and Wenatchee for apple packing. Her dad was a dirt worker. He dug drains and ditches, basements and foundations. He was as simple as mud, and his girl was simple too—a nice clean way to be.

Icie and Al never danced at the fruit tramps' street dances down by the depot square. The preachers stopped the street dances a while ago.

I was night-watchman down at the Hillside—thirty-five cents an hour, thirteen hours a night, and seven nights a week. The run lasted six weeks—the best job in the house, and no one to bother you!

I was beginning to get prosperous, rich—which is not in accordance with the Bible rules. After a week or two of arguing for and against, I'd put my savings into a car—one of the rattle-bang, hop-along-and-go kind. It shone like the grandmother of all patent-leather shoes.

Al came down to the Hillside one evening at six, just when the crew were quitting. They'd packed out fourteen car-loads of fruit that day, and were tired, dead beat, done in. You could see it in their feet and the hang of their arms. They were hurrying off to the rooming-houses and shacks in the alleys, to change into their good clothes and dance till one in the morning.

Icie spoke a word or two to Al, and Al came to me. He looked a little shy, embarrassed, which is not the way of either a pearl diver or a fruit tramp.

"You sleep all day, don't you?" he asked.

" 'Most all day. Sure," I replied, and a hopeful look came into his face. I could see Icie nudging him with her black eyes.

"I was wondering if I could get the loan of your car to-morrow," he said.

Um-hum!

Al and Icie wanted to go riding in my new car—the result of how many years' savings I don't know; a good many years!

You know how careless happy young folks are when they're like Al and Icie were.

"The missis is going to use it, Al," said I. His face fell. He didn't know that I was fibbing, that the missis couldn't drive.

Every time I'd see the two of them together after that I'd feel bad, cheap, mean. The missis felt bad too when I told her. We were young once.

It wasn't very long after that that the draft came along. There was a big send-off meeting at the women's club-house for the drafted boys. One of the bankers, and a lawyer, and a high school history teacher spoke. They gave Al a ditty-bag and told him that he was a hero.

Al went to Camp Lewis next day. I saw Icie at the depot, proud as a new dollar and crying like the winter rain.

"I just done told my soldier boy 'good-by,' " she said to me.

I said, "Good luck, Icie!"

While Icie followed the fruit Al went over beyond. He was joking and laughing in the midst of his company one day when a shell burst somewhere near by. They wrapped him in a blanket and left him asleep.

Icie is following the fruit.

I wish I'd let them have my car that day!

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